OSWESTRY & BORDER
CHRONICLE

Thursday, May 9, 2013 | www.oswestrychronicle.com | Price when sold 50p | mna media

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MARKET IN FIGHT TO BOOST TRADE

OSWESTRY street market is to embark on a huge campaign to boost trade after bosses revealed it had lost a third of its traders in the past 13 years.

David Clough, Oswestry Town Council's retails and events manager, said the market had a healthy future, despite a dramatic fall in income, as plans to take part in the 'Love Your Local Market Campaign' were announced.

Earlier this year a report to Oswestry Town Council, which runs the market, revealed rental income from Wednesday market traders had fallen dramatically in the last year.

The report said income over a 12 month period totalled £12,064 compared to £18,228 in the previous year. There was an average income of £281 compared to £424 last year, a decrease of £143 per week. The report added the number of traders had fallen from 22 to 21 in 12 months and added that in 1990 the average number of traders was 99 while in 2000 it was 60.

by Graham Breeze

But Mr Clough said Oswestry was in a healthier position than many other markets across the country.

"Horrendous weather conditions had a big impact over the last 12 months," he said. "But we are in a healthy position and our £10 a stall scheme has allowed numerous people to set up their own businesses at a low cost base. It has helped them test the marketplace.

Traditional

"We don't have as many traders travelling around the country's markets as we used to but what we do have is more local people getting into business by using Oswestry market.

"Clearly Oswestry's traditional market is not as big as it was but when you look across the country others have gone out of business. Oswestry's market is a great place for established businesses and new small traders."

Councillors will be working to put together a business and marketing plan for the future and next week the market takes part in the Mary Portas inspired 'Love Your Local Market Campaign'.

Gareth Wilson, chief executive of NABMA said: "Love Your Local Market is the biggest market event in a generation. It gives people the chance of a new career and demonstrates how important the market is to the local community."

Ex BBC The Apprentice contender, Adam Corbally, a former market trader, is in town on Wednesday to help launch the event.

He will also present the award for Best Local Council Market 2013 – awarded at the National Association of British Market Authorities conference – to the Oswestry market committee. He will then do a 'meet and greet' with local traders.

On Tuesday Mr Corbally is at a meeting of the Start Up Oswestry Club for 18s-30s at Walford and North Shropshire College.

Woman wrongly claimed £9,000

A WOMAN wrongly claimed almost £9,000 in benefits after failing to notify the authorities that her husband was working as a taxi driver.

On Tuesday at Welshpool Crown Court Terri Louise Evans, 27, of Beechwood, Erw Wen, Welshpool, was given a six month community order with a condition attached she attend a finance course.

She had admitted at an earlier hearing failing to reveal a change of circumstance affecting entitlement to social security benefits and housing and council tax benefits by not declaring the earnings of her husband.

Mr Nigel Vaughan, prosecuting, said Evans had overclaimed by a total of almost £9,000.

This including £1,700 and £500 of housing and council tax benefits and more than £6,000 income support.

Mr Paul Inns, for Evans, said his client had originally claimed legitimately for the benefits.

When her husband began work she believed he was going to the job centre each week to tell staff how much he had earned and that that information would be given to the various benefits authorities.

He said that Evans was repaying the money at £100 a month.

Chance to boost skills

CYCLISTS are being offered the chance to boost their maintenance skills.

A bike maintenance class will be held at Eastern Oswestry Community Centre at Cabin Lane tomorrow (Friday) from 10am until 1pm. Participants can learn how to make a bike safety check, repair a puncture and make minor adjustments.

The session, organised by Shropshire Council, aims to boost cyclists' confidence.

To book visit **www.travelshropshire.co.uk/cycle-maintenance** or call Ray Hughes at Shropshire Council on (01743) 253008.

18 measles cases reported in Oswestry

EIGHTEEN of the 35 suspected cases of measles in Shropshire are in Oswestry, it has been confirmed.

And figures have revealed that five of the six confirmed measles cases in the county are also in the town.

The latest statistics come as health bosses across the border in Mid Wales say up to 3,000 children in the region are still unprotected from measles.

Bosses at Public Health England West Midlands say from January to May there have been 35 suspected cases of measles in Shropshire and six diagnosed cases in the county. However health chiefs say the figures for suspected cases represent clinically diagnosed cases reported by clinicians to health protection teams in the region.

They say these cases have not been confirmed to be true cases of measles using an appropriate laboratory test and, as such, the numbers should be treated with caution.

In Mid Wales health chiefs are again urging parents to have children vaccinated after it was revealed up to 3,000 people between the ages of 10 and 18 are still unprotected from measles.

Since the beginning of November, 1,355 people in the area have come forward for unscheduled vaccination. Of these, only 364 were aged between 10 and 18.

Final for friendly Big Bear

Mark Dann, from the Big Bear Lodge, which has been shortlisted as one of 25 finalists in the AA's Friendliest Bed & Breakfast Awards 2013. ***Picture: Peter Flemmich.***

A VILLAGE business near Oswestry is hoping to be named Britain's friendliest bed and breakfast.

Big Bear Lodge at Hendre Villa in Melverley has been shortlisted as one of 25 finalists for the AA Friendliest Bed & Breakfast Awards 2013 from a total entry of 2,600 businesses.

The lodge was purpose-built in 2012 by Mark and Rachael Dann and gets its name from its ski lodge design.

All the finalists have been nominated by the AA's hotel inspectors and the winning B&B will be awarded the coveted title at the AA's Bed and Breakfast Awards lunch to be held on May 28 at the St Ermin's Hotel in London.

When Mark is not helping Rachael he is the chief flying instructor and owner of Beyond Extreme, offering paragliding instruction and tandem flights.

B&B guests are offered the chance to try activities in the area including paragliding and canoeing.

"This is great news for us and is reward for all the hard work and considerable investment that has been needed to set up this business," said Mark. "To be in the top 25 is honour enough but we are keeping our fingers crossed to win the big one.

"We had two visits from AA inspectors and they clearly liked what they saw.

We offer a unique one of a kind experience set in a magical part of England and have four double rooms on offer."

Big Bear Lodge, built 10 months ago, is part of Beyond Extreme which Mark has operated since 1998.

That's a wrap! Joy for firm at awards

THE Gift Experience has been named the Oswestry area's top business.

The Ellesmere-based company was named Business Of The Year 2013 at the Oswestry & Border Chronicle Business Awards ceremony held in conjunction with Oswestry Chamber of Commerce at The Lion Quays Waterside Resort.

And the company's delighted owners are planning a double celebration as they reach their 10th year in business in September.

"It was great to win the awards and a real boost for us and the staff as we approach our 10th birthday," said Jenny Tervin, who runs the company with her husband Trevor.

"We will be planning something special to mark our birthday.

"We have been working hard to expand the business through Amazon and eBay because although we are successful there is always scope for expansion.

"The awards are a real boost for everyone including the 11 staff. We are a family-run company and we are all working extremely hard."

The company won the top award and also won the Best Online Business category.

● **Awards – See Page 25**

Murder case man in court

THE Oswestry teenager accused of the murder of a 21-year-old man in the town has appeared before a crown court.

Richard Adam Reece, 18, of Lord Street, Oswestry, made a brief appearance at Stafford Crown Court on Wednesday, May 1.

He is charged with the murder of 21-year-old Danny Jones on April 24.

No pleas were taken and Reece was remanded in custody until a date to be fixed in August.

Mr Jones, from Chirk, who has a young son, died after an incident close to the Oak Street car park in Oswestry.

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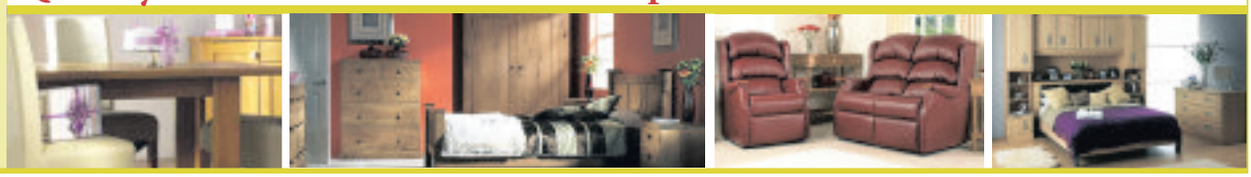

NEWS

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Hundreds turn out to see soap star Michelle

TV star Michelle Collins, at Tudor Griffiths in Oswestry, with, from left, Kylie and Vinnie Price, Stacey and Tyler Evans. *Pictures: Peter Flemmich.*

Michelle Collins, with Tudor Griffiths, from Tudor Griffiths in Oswestry.

Michelle with Midlands Air Ambulance fundraising manager, Maria Jones, and daughter Emily.

Michelle with fan Katie Roberts.

Crowds gathered to catch a glimpse of the star.

CORONATION Street star Michelle Collins was in Oswestry at the weekend and quipped that her screen lover may end up under one of the patios at the showroom she was opening.

As landlord of the Rovers Return, Coronation Street's Stella swapped pulling pints for cutting the ribbon at the opening of Dream Patios and Dream Kitchens & Bathrooms at Maesbury Road, Oswestry.

About 600 people turned out for the opening to get autographs and their pictures taken with the TV landlady who crossed over to Corrie from the BBC's EastEnders, where she played man-eater Cindy Beale.

The hundreds of customers at the new TG Griffiths group showroom tried to glean from Miss Collins how her current storyline will end.

She in turn said it was lovely to be in the Shropshire sunshine.

With the Rovers Return destroyed in a fire and lover Karl under suspicion, she told her fans: "I am not going to let you into any of the secrets. Who knows, perhaps he might end up under one of these patios."

The 50-year-old said she was delighted to be in Coronation Street and at the centre of the storyline. She added: "After EastEnders I didn't really think about being in another soap. I have been very lucky to be involved in many many things over the years."

Mike Smout, from the TG Group, said: "We could not have had a better celebrity. Nothing has been too much trouble for Miss Collins."

Three jobs have been created by the new showroom at the TG Builders' Merchants site which has been in operation for 25 years.

Mr Smout said: "We invested three quarters of a million pounds in developing the centre here in Oswestry. We are pleased to have brought something new to Oswestry to keep people shopping locally."

Wind farm protesters launching funds call

A FIGHTING fund has been launched to ensure that campaign groups are legally represented at a public inquiry into plans to build a series of wind farms in Mid Wales next month.

The groups, including Montgomeryshire Against Pylons, say if the plans for hundreds of turbines across the Mid Wales uplands can be halted it may stop the need for high voltage electricity lines across Shropshire linking a new sub station in Cefn Coch to the National Grid at Frankton near Oswestry.

Jonathon Wilkinson, from MAP, said it was vital that the alliance, comprising all the campaign groups, was represented by a barrister at the inquiry which starts in Welshpool on June 4.

The inquiry will decide whether the refusal of planning permission for five wind farms by Powys County Council should be upheld or overturned. They include proposals for 600-plus turbines in the Carno and Llanbrynmair areas.

Mr Wilkinson said: "The outcome is very relevant to the power line proposed for Mid Wales and Shropshire as without them they may be no need to build it.

"We have fundraising events in place to hire a barrister and are also urging people to make donations to the cause."

More information is available from the Montgomery Against Pylons website **www.montgomeryshireagainstpylons.org**

Table-top sale

THE Llanfyllin and Bwlch-y-cibau NSPCC committee will hold a spring fair and table-top sale at Llansantffraid Village Hall on May 18.

Anyone wishing to book one of the few remaining stalls at a cost of £5 should contact Colleen Williams, (01691) 828396.

Owen's Travelmaster

Battlefields of the Western Front

The town of Ypres was the scene of some of the worst fighting of the war. It took 40 years to rebuild the beautiful city. The Grote market is the central point - you are only a short stroll away for the Flanders Fields Museum and the Menin Gate, where the moving Last Post takes place each evening at 8pm. The market is also surrounded by many cafes, restaurants and of course chocolate shops

AMBASSADOR HOTEL, MENIN
With only 30 guest bedrooms this hotel offers intimacy and comfort. The hotel has a bar, dining room and lift. All bedrooms have T.V., telephone and hairdryer.

YOUR ITINERARY
Friday 24th: We leave this morning for the channel crossing to Calais, past Dunkerque, De Panne and Veurne before proceeding to Menin for a 3 night stay. This little town has a lovely main square with a great choice of bars and cafes.m

Saturday 25th: ***The Somme, death of a generation*** - Today's tour takes in the Somme battlefield. With visits to Historial Museum at Péronne, the largest British mine crater at La Boisselle, Thiepval memorial and the visitors' centre, the Ulster Tower commemorating those from Ulster who fell on the Somme, Newfoundland Park preserved trenches. We end the day at Serre.

Sunday 26th: ***Tunnels and Trenches*** - Today's we visit Arras in the Wellington Quarries - a massive system of tunnels used by British troops in WW1, Arras Memorial, Monchy le Preux to look at the defence of the village by the Newfoundland Regiment, Vimy Riadge, to look at preserved trench system, visitors' centre and impressive memorial on Hill 145 arguably one of the finest memorials on the Western Front. Evening meal at the hotel we be followed by the 'Last Post Ceremony' in Ypres. Each night, at 8pm, the Last Post is played at the Menin Gate.

Monday 27th: We look at the battlefields around Ypres; this was the main British battlefront in World War I . We start at the preserved trenches at Sanctuary Woodand see the museum before moving on to Tyne Cot Cemetery. It's then time to make our way to Calais for our ferry crossing to Dover.

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James Herriot Country Trail

Many popular TV programmes that are filmed on location here including 'All Creatures Great and Small'. On this tour we visit the Herriot Museum in Thirsk. Add to this Harrogate, Harlow Carr Gardens, Rydale Folk Museum, Whitby, Goathland and the Black Sheep Brewery and you have a tour not to be missed.

THE YORKSHIRE HOTEL, HARROGATE
The Yorkshire Hotel is perfectly situated in the heart of the majestic spa town of Harrogate, opposite Bettys Cafe Tea Rooms with the town centre within walking distance. Harrogate hotel offers a total of 80 en-suite bedrooms, 3 small lounge areas off reception, a restaurant and Bar. In room facilities include flat screen TV, free wireless internet connection, tea and coffee making facilities, hairdryer.

YOUR ITINERARY
Monday 17th: We travel to Skipton for a lunch stop, then drive through the Dales National Park (lovely scenery) up to Aysgarth, past the Falls to Jervaulx Abbey and then on to our hotel in Harrogate in time to settle in before dinner.

Tuesday 18th: Free time in Harrogate, renowned for its floral beauty and elegant spa buildings. After lunch we depart for RHS Harlow Carr gardens and take a guided tour (1 hour)

Wednesday 19th: This morning we depart for Hutton-le-hole where we make a stop at the Rydales Folk museum. An open air museum transporting you back in time. From here we continue over the North Yorkshire Moors to Whitby. It has a maze of alleyways and narrow streets running down to a busy harbour. We return via Goathland, probably most famous these days for the TV programme 'Heartbeat'.

Thursday 20th: we travel to the market town of Thirsk for a visit to 'The world of James Herriot'. We will look around Thirsk before we continue to Masham and the Blacksheep Brewery. We have included a tour of the traditional brewhouse and fermenting room. Experience the Black Sheep brewing process before sampling one of the award winning ales.

Friday 21st: Following a leisurely breakfast we leave the hotel for home.

5 DAY TOUR INCLUDES:
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* Entrance to the World of James Herriot * Tour of the Black Sheep Brewery
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Shock result as councillor loses seat after 37 years

LONG-STANDING councillor Betty Gull was the biggest casualty of last Thursday's local authority elections, losing her seat on Oswestry Town Council.

Miss Gull's defeat was the main upset, leaving the councilor of 37 years stunned as she lost her Maserfield seat to Rebecca Evans, with Cynthia Hawksley re-elected.

The three-times mayor could not hide her disappointment at the news saying she was stunned and a t a loss to know what to do next.

Miss Gull , who has dedicated her life to local government and was also Borough Mayor twice, said: "I have always done my best to serve the people of Oswestry during my 37 years as a councillor.

"I never went into an election expecting to win but I am very disappointed that the people voted that they do not want me. I will now have to take time to think about the future."

Miss Gull, a guiding light behind the Oswestry In Bloom Christmas Lights campaigns, would have been deputy mayor-elect had she regained her seat.

Miss Gull was not the only councillor to lose out. Romer Hoseason lost his seat in the reformed Castle Ward, coming last behind new councillor Duncan Kerr, Matt Lee and Amanda Woof.

Saffron Rainey finished at the bottom of the voting list in the new Victoria Ward behind re-elected councillor Paul Milner and newcomer Sandy Best.

It will be a big change in Oswestry with four other councillors not seeking re-election while all other town council wards were uncontested.

There were no changes at Shropshire Council in Oswestry with Conservative leader Keith Barrow hailing his party's success at the polls as a ringing endorsement of the Tories' response to hard-hitting spending cuts.

The Conservatives retained control of Shropshire Council and Councillor Barrow said the results reflected a successful four years for the Conservatives, in which they had cut spending by £85 million.

"We have taken some tough decisions and we have been given an endorsement," he said.

"The next four years will be a challenge but it is one which we shall meet head-on," he added

In Councillor Barrow's own district, Oswestry South, the UKIP candidate Penny Cotton finished third with 175 votes, 16.4 per cent of the overall turnout.

Duncan Kerr, of the Green Party, finished second with 337 votes, with Councillor Barrow taking the seat with 488 votes – 45.95 per cent of the overall turnout.

● For the full election results see **www.shropshire.gov.uk**

by Graham Breeze

Five deny charges of affray in village

FIVE young men have denied affray, following an incident outside a pub in Llanymynech.

One man suffered a broken skull in fighting outside the Dolphin pub in the village near Oswestry.

Appearing at Welshpool magistrates court on Tuesday were: Matthew Robert Burns, 21, of Bron y Buckley, Welshpool; Liam Nicoll, 20, of Brookfield Road, Welshpool; Joshua Michael Parry, 20, of Gungrog Road, Welshpool; Sam Williams of Gungrog Hill, Welshpool and a 17-year-old from Welshpool.

All five denied charges of affray, that at Llanymynech, with others, they used or threatened unlawful violence. Burns, Nicoll and Parry also denied assaulting David Kynaston causing him actual bodily harm.

All five were granted bail and the case was adjourned for committal to the Crown Court until June 18.

Tickets on sale for charity date

TICKETS are on sale for an Oswestry production company's evening of music and comedy next week.

The Very Nice Production Company will be staging Take The Mic 5 in aid of local charities at the Marches School Theatre on May 17 and 18.

The group has raised £13,000 for Hope House and £2,000 for the Kibera Slum appeal in Nairobi since launching five years ago.

It hopes to send a donation to the Neonatal Unit in Shrewsbury, plus another charity that is yet to be selected.

Tickets are £10 and available from the box office at Just The Right Thing in Beatrice Street. Call (01691) 670555 or e-mail **gordonm ccombe@aol.com**

Committee to take on plans for ex-cinema

A STEERING committee is to be set up to take forward ambitious plans to convert Oswestry's former cinema into a multi-purpose entertainment venue.

The former Regal Cinema in Leg Street closed in 1994 but campaigners say the building, which could cost about £500,000 to buy, would be an ideal site for a new development to benefit the community.

It is currently being leased as a charity shop by the YMCA.

But campaigner Chas Nicholson says the building could be transformed into a venue for theatre and opera, cinema, conferences, music recitals, exhibitions and a space for education and community groups.

He said he was encouraged by a meeting held at the Walls Restaurant in Oswestry to look at how to take the project forward.

Various community organisations attended the talks as well as Shropshire Council leader Keith Barrow and Oswestry's next mayor Chris Schofield.

Mr Nicholson said: "The meeting went well and a lot of people offered their support.

"Finding the funding to buy the building will be one challenge and we would also have to find funding to convert it.

Mr Nicholson said Oswestry needed a town centre venue for the arts.

He said: "With a population of over 17,000 and a catchment area of perhaps twice that, Oswestry is the second largest town in Shropshire, after Shrewsbury."

He added: "The old Regal cinema is now on the market with Celt Rowlands & Co at an asking price of £475,000."

Spa team wins top award

Lyn Pearson, head of marketing at Lion Quays, right, and Jo Bullock, spa manager.

THE spa at the Lion Quays Waterside Resort near Oswestry was this week named as Britain's best by a global skincare brand.

Lion Quays Spa has been recognised by award winning brand Decleor for their 'outstanding contribution to the beauty industry.'

The Spa boasts a five out of five bubble rating from The Good Spa Guide and was a North West finalist in the 2012 Good Spa Awards.

Now the spa team has won Decleor's 'National Residential Spa of the Year'.

Jo Bullock, Lion Quays Spa Manager said: "Our team of spa professionals enjoy providing exceptional service which shines through in the guest feedback I see on a daily basis.

"I'm so very proud of the team and it is with great pleasure we are showcasing our award in Spa reception for all to see."

Decleor's National Sales Director, Sam Keegan: "We received a very high volume of entries for this particular category, the quality and variety of entries were of a very high standard.

"Following a rigorous judging process, our panel felt Lion Quays Spa presented an outstanding demonstration of their initiatives, achievements and dedication to the Spa Industry."

Lion Quays will be celebrating the win with 'An Evening of Celebration' tonight, Thursday, with an open invite for guests to enjoy fizz and fancies and taster treatments available on the night.

For details **www.lionquays.com/celebratespa**

NEWS in brief

43-year-old in court over shotgun case

A 43-YEAR-old man has appeared in court in connection with an incident which led to armed police patrolling a village in Shropshire.

Paul Carruthers of Trefonen, near Oswestry, has been charged with four counts of criminal violence and possessing a 12-bore shotgun with intent to cause fear of violence.

The charges relate to events in Trefonen on May 2 and 3. They include damaging a garage wall, sign and plant pot, destroying two geese, causing damage to an ornamental porcelain goose, and damaging the rear window and lights of a Daihatsu motor vehicle.

Carruthers is also facing charges of driving a motor vehicle dangerously and failing to stop after a road collision in Willow Street, Oswestry. Both charges relate to an incident on March 12.

Carruthers, who did not enter a plea, appeared at Telford Magistrates Court on Monday. He was remanded in custody to appear at Shrewsbury Crown Court on May 13.

Chance to join sponsored walk

OSWESTRY Rotary Club is calling for people to join in its Men Walking 4 Men 5km event on Sunday.

The sponsored walk is to raise awareness for men to get their health worries checked out and will leave Oswestry School playing fields at 10am.

Club president John Ward said: "The walk is to encourage men to be more aware of gender-specific cancers in the same way that it has become second nature for women."

Plant auction

LLANYMYNECH Gardening Club is holding a fundraising plant auction in the Village Hall on Tuesday at 7.30pm. Call (01691) 656665.

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Poster plea by heart charity

A PHOTOGRAPH of a teenager who died after collapsing on a rugby field at his school is to help highlight a regional campaign to highlight young adults who die from undiagnosed heart conditions.

Matthew Dewhirst, 17, from St Martins, near Oswestry, was a talented sportsman and musician who died in July last year. His parents, Sue and Chris Dewhirst are helping to launch the campaign.

They say they want to highlight the shocking statistic that 12 young, apparently fit and healthy people lose their lives each week to sudden cardiac death.

by Graham Breeze

Postcards have been produced featuring the photos of 12 young people from across the region who have died.

A poster-sized version was being unveiled by the charity, Cardiac Risk in the Young at an event in Gloucester today (Thursday).

Mr and Mrs Dewhirst say Matthew – who attended Ellesmere College – had been displaying some symptoms such as dizziness and blackouts. They say despite tests, an underlying cardiac problem was not identified.

They are now raising of awareness of the need for expert diagnosis and treatment for the conditions that can lead to sudden death in young people.

"We want to see simple tests for Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome for young people who play sport competitively.

To date, the fundraising efforts of Matthew's family and friends have reached its initial target of £5,000. Every additional £3,500 raised will fund ongoing screening sessions for up to 100 local sportspeople.

More than 150,000 postcards have been distributed by CRY families across the UK in a bid to raise awareness and lobby support amongst MPs.

Chief Executive and Founder of the charity, Alison Cox MBE, says; "Our powerful postcard campaign is continuing to help us emphasise the importance of screening and the fact that so many of these tragic cases affecting fit and healthy young people could have been prevented."

Composting tips available

WASTE Awareness Wales is encouraging households in the Welshpool area to get involved with this week's international compost awareness week.

The aim of the week is to show people how simple home composting can be and the results that can be achieved by turning organic waste into nutrient-rich compost.

Lyndsey Stewart, Waste Reduction Office for Waste Awareness Wales, said: "Many people don't realise how simple it is to home compost or just how much of their household waste can actually be composted. As well as autumn leaves, grass and hedge clippings, vegetable peelings and egg shells, you can put shredded cardboard, tea bags and even the contents of your vacuum cleaner into your compost bin."

Many local authorities in Wales offer incentive schemes for households wanting to invest in a compost bin. For further information contact your local authority or see **www.wasteawarenesswales.org.uk**

Cadets aim for African trek

Verity Bowen, Jack Morris and Jason Till.

TWO Oswestry School pupils are hoping to be selected for a gruelling African expedition – that even experts say is not for the faint-hearted.

Members of every cadet force in the country were asked whether they wanted to join the expedition to Kenya next year.

More than 80 cadets applied and out of those, 66 were put through to the next round of selection.

Two cadets from Oswestry School Combined Cadet Force were selected, L/Cpl Jack Morris and L/Cpl Verity Bowen, along with Lt Jason Till as part of the leader team.

The two cadets will be travelling to Halton Training Camp near Lancaster during the weekend of May 24 to 26 where the next stage of the selection process will be conducted.

They will find out after that stage whether they have been chosen to go to Kenya where they will go on a mountain trek, take part in a community project and get involved in other activities including sightseeing and white water rafting.

The main objective of the trek will be to the 4,895-metre high summit of Point Lenana on Mount Kenya.

Mr Till, who is the school's staff instructor, said: "This is an expedition not for the faint hearted.

"To get to Kenya will take much dedication, hard work and commitment, and to get to the selection weekend is a feat that should not be sniffed at.

"We wish them luck during the selection weekend and fingers crossed we will be waving them goodbye on the plane to Nairobi."

The community project is yet to be finalised but usually involves painting, building and general help around a school.

The rest and recuperation part of the expedition will also include game drives for a chance to see wild animals.

The acclimatisation period will include activities such as rock climbing, mountain biking and trekking to get the body used to the altitude as well as the heat.

Should Jack and Verity both be successful in selection the hard part of training and fund raising will start. The expedition costs in the region of around £3,000 each.

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NEWS 01691 668094

Big plans are unveiled for £2.2m town youth centre

A WIDE array of projects ranging from a play offering a unique take on the Harry Potter books to the creation of a new online radio station are running at Oswestry's new £2.2 million youth centre.

The Centre at Oak Street opened at the end of last year to replace the town's Centre North West youth centre.

Since it was launched a new and wider range of activities have been taking place at the centre. The driving force behind many of the new initiatives has been Fusion Arts Oswestry, a community interest company based at The Centre which encourages young people to get involved with music, dance and the creative arts.

by Iain St John

Jay Moore, chairman of Fusion Arts Oswestry, said the creation of the new centre had helped being new vigour and enthusiasm for the creative arts in the town, especially for young people.

He said: "Having the new centre has certainly encouraged people to get involved in the new projects.

"It has been important for people like myself as I was brought in by Shropshire Councillors Keith Barrow and Vince Hunt to set up some of the projects.

"Fusion Arts Oswestry is based at The Centre and we have been involved in setting up exciting projects."

One of the latest initiatives is a unique version of the Harry Potter saga.

Mr Moore said: "Young people from Oswestry will be involved in all aspects of the play, which will be based on the Harry Potter books. We are not going to follow them line by line – that would take too long – so we will have our own take on the story.

"We are looking for people of all ages to get involved and they can either be an actor or they can get involved in the production side of things or the set creation."

The Centre is also looking to set up its own radio station, to be run online.

Contact **jay.moore@fusionartsoswestry. co.uk** for details.

Jay Moore from Fusion Arts in Oswestry gets ready for workshops in The Centre.

New hope in wait for site

THE decade-long wait for a new medical centre could be coming to an end.

An idea has been put forward for Shropshire Council to build a centre on its land by Ellesmere Wharf and then lease it to health bosses to run. It had previously been hoped the former Shropshire Primary Care Trust would pay for the centre to be built.

But health bosses said funding was limited and the scheme for Ellesmere was not one of its main priorities. For more than a decade people in Ellesmere have called for a new medical practice because of a growing demand. Campaigners want a new centre to be included in the multi-million pound plans for Ellesmere Wharf.

Local Shropshire Councillor Ann Hartley spoke to Ellesmere Town Council about it last Monday. Sultan Mahmud, director of commissioning for Shropshire and Staffordshire Area Team of NHS England, said: "As of March 31, Ellesmere Medical Centre was fifth on the Shropshire priority list."

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NEWS

01691 668094

Cricketer jets in for school role

Ryan Fynn

A SCHOOL in Oswestry has a new cricket coach all the way from South Africa.

Ryan Fynn, who lives just outside Port Elizabeth in a small village called St Francis Bay, arrived at Oswestry School at the beginning of the term and is helping with the 1st squad.

Mr Fynn has been coaching cricket since he was 20 years old and has completed Level 1 and 2 cricket coaching courses, coaching numerous teams and individuals in the last 10 years. He has studied human movement sciences.

Meanwhile a young cricketer at the school is making his own way in the field of sports coaching.

Fifth former Ben Dugan has been invited to be a volunteer coach with the Andrew Flintoff Cricket Academy after attending a coaching session at Shrewsbury.

Oswestry School prep department is holding an open day on Monday (May 6) from 9.30am to 11.30am.

All are welcome to attend.

Fundraisers cycle 24-hours non-stop at beauty spots

A GROUP of friends who took on an unusual 24-hour fundraising challenge at two Mid Wales beauty spots have raised about £1,000 for charity.

The cyclists from Oswestry cycled non-stop around Lake Vyrnwy and Bala Lake using tandem bikes on April 27-28.

The fundraiser was held in aid of an appeal to improve cancer care at Shropshire's orthopaedic hospital.

by Iain St John

Bosses at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital have launched a £2 million appeal to develop a bone cancer centre.

The cycling group was led by Oswestry independent financial adviser Darron Humphreys.

The 42-year-old was joined by friends Anna Breeze, Rob Oliver, Julie Oliver, Dave Hughes, Andrew Lawson and Guy, Owen and Stu Jones.

All members of the team took turns riding the two tandems.

Mr Humphreys said: "It went really well and we have raised about £1,000, which is great.

"We completed the challenge in 24 hours and the weather was stunning.

"We were lucky because I think we were in one of the few places which escaped hail and rain at the weekend."

Mr Humphreys said he wanted to thank everyone who took part in the event and who donated cash.

He also gave special thanks to the Wynnstay Hotel in Oswestry who provided bacon sandwiches before the group set off and offered sponsoring, and Stuart Barclay cycle shop in Oswestry for providing cycling equipment.

Mr Humphreys added: "This is the fourth time we have done this. We do something for charity each year. We pick a different charity.

"We must have raised about £6,000 over the years and we choose local charities.

"We have done a cycle for the Lingen Davies Cancer Appeal for example, and one year it was for the spinal injuries unit at the orthopaedic hospital.

"This year we are raising money in aid of The Oswestry Bone Cancer Centre Appeal.

"Please support us and dig deep and donate."

To sponsor the group visit **www.justgiving.com/temtandemdarron2013**

A group of Oswestry friends whose cycling challenge has raised £1,000. *Picture: Laura Dutfield.*

£6,500 is raised at plant fair in village

AN annual plant fair has raised a record amount for charity after selling more than 1,000 plants.

The event at Welshampton Parish Hall raised £6,500 for Shropshire Macmillan Cancer Support and St Michael and All Angels Church in Welshampton.

About 300 people attended the event to discover rare plants and get their hands on speciality shrubbery.

The plants were specially grown or donated by private national collection holders, nurseries and leading plant specialists across north Shropshire and the Cheshire border such as Wollerton Old Hall Gardens near Market Drayton and the Cholmondeley Estate close to Malpas, near Whitchurch.

Organiser Gillian Eleftheriou said it was a wonderful day. She said: "It all came together extremely well, we were sold out. Last year we raised £5,600 so it is a massive increase and a surprise, I am so grateful."

The event has collected more than £25,000 for charities over seven years.

Among the prime collection were plants with a link to singers Elvis Presley.

A Hosta plant originating from the garden of Elvis's Graceland mansion went under the hammer.

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NEWS

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Festival on target to be a sell-out

ORGANISERS of the Osfest Music Festival say they are on track to sell out for the three-day event.

With just four weeks left until the Osfest, Break for the Border event, on May 24-27, there are less than 1,000 tickets left and festival goers are being warned not to lose out by leaving it too late to apply.

The announcement that headline band , JLS, is splitting up, prompted a rush for tickets as fans try to see the band before they part company.

Carly Jackson, from Osfest, said: "Ticket sales have gone through the roof since the surprise JLS announcement and we are still well on track to sell out."

The event kicks off with the DJ Party Night on May 24 and continues with live music on two stages throughout the weekend.

This year will see a big top erected on the Park Hall Showground to ensure festival goers keep dry whatever the weather. Last year's Sunday concert was hit by massive rain storms.

Acts this year include JLS, James Arthur, Wiley, Lawson, The Pigeon Detectives, A.M.E, Lucy Spraggan and others as well as a wealth of local talent.

Tickets and more information are available from **http://www.osfest.co.uk**

Trip back in time at castle as Norman troops invade

by Sue Austin

A NORMAN invasion of a castle near Oswestry was welcomed by villagers as hundreds not only took part but travelled to watch the re-enactment.

Whittington Castle was descended on by Historia Normannis, a group of former university students who each year meet up and go back in time to 1066 when an army crossed the channel from France and, beginning with the Battle of Hastings travelled north to conquer England.

Their weekend camp at the castle near Oswestry set out to provide an authentic experience of life as a Norman.

Norman troops on the battlefield.

The battle begins.

Visitors were given a taste of ordinary live with cooking and domestic demonstrations throughout the weekend. There was also a chance to have a go at archery.

During the weekend the re-enactors laid siege to the castle with an impressive siege engine as well as rocks and ladders. And for the first time they also donned armour for hand-to-hand combat in a specially constructed arena.

Castle manager Sue Ellis said the Norman Invasion had become an important date in Whittington's calendar.

"This is a major fundraiser for Whittington Castle and helps to keep the castle open for future generations. We are grateful to the volunteers who have helped over the weekend, from helping with car parking to clearing tables in the tearoom."

As well as the re-enactment there was a medieval market with a blacksmith and his workshop, refreshments and craft stalls.

The castle is the only community-run castle in England, looked after by a special trust of villagers which has a 99-year-lease on the ancient monument.

The Trust won a £950,000 Heritage Lottery Grant towards its now completed £1.5m project to repair and restore the castle.

Mark Newman, three, dressed for battle.

From left, Michael Nicholls, Dan Wick, as the Earl of Chester, and Chris Morris. *Pictures: Peter Flemmich.*

Whittington castle manager Sue Ellis.

Cooking up some pottage was Cathryn Sargeant and Claire Flower.

NEWS in brief

Death case driver appears in court

AN 84-year-old man has appeared in court charged with causing the death of a motorcyclist.

Mr Simon Oliver Kerridge-Judd of Trewern, Welshpool died on October 17 last year in a crash on the A483 Welshpool to Newtown Road at its junction for Berriew when his motorcycle was involved in a collision with a Peugeot camper van.

At Welshpool Magistrates on Tuesday Geoffrey Humphries, 84, of Woodpeckers, Moat Farm, Manafon, Welshpool, faced a charge of causing the death of Mr Kerridge-Judd by driving without due care and attention.

The case was adjourned until July 2 and Humphries was granted bail.

Group plans to launch in town

PLANS have been announced for the launch of a Townswomen's Guild in Oswestry.

The group is a national organisation providing friendship and participation in both local and countrywide events.

People who would like to know more are encouraged to meet between 10.30am and 1pm at Oswestry's Wynnstay Hotel on May 22.

Members were outside Boots and Morrisons handing out leaflets yesterday (Wednesday).

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Awards night sings praises of thriving businesses

WHILE all across the country we hear tales of business woes I have just spent an evening with over 200 people whose companies are thriving.

Finalists in the Oswestry & Border Chronicle Business Awards sat down last week to hear who had picked up honours in the paper's second annual competition.

The Oswestry and Welshpool area and the villages in the newspaper's circulation patch are full of booming businesses where being an entrepreneur seems to be the buzz word.

From beauticians to steel workers everyone was talking up the economy and reporting bursting order books.

Let's not kid ourselves that everyone is enjoying good times but there are real

signs that in this area, in particular, the business community is bouncing back.

Celebrating all that is good about the area was a very refreshing experience and I'm already looking forward to next year's event when, hopefully, trade will still be booming.

□□□□□□□□□

THIS week I spoke to a very disappointed councillor who had lost her seat on Oswestry Town Council after 37 years representing her ward.

Betty Gull could not hide her disappointment at the devastating defeat and it is a sad day when such a dedicated servant finds herself out of office.

She now plans to take time out to consider her future but let's all hope she doesn't disappear from public life completely – she plays a vitally important role in the Oswestry In Bloom campaign every year.

□□□□□□□□□

AS A lifelong and long-suffering supporter of Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club I have been copping more than my share of stick this week after the famous club plunged into the N-Power Division One.

I was an impressionable eight year old when I first set foot in the famous Molyneux stadium and quickly fell in love with a club that then sat proudly at the top of the English game.

How things have changed over the years and now the club finds itself holding the unenviable record of being the only team to crash out of the first two divisions twice.

I often wondered how things would have turned out if my uncle had taken me to a different venue such as Old Trafford or Anfield but, no matter how much stick comes my way, 'We're Wanderers Until We Die'.

□□□□□□□□□

IT'S HATS off this week to some pupils at Welshpool High School who arranged for a show which is currently on a national tour to come to their town.

Country Boys' Struggle took to the stage at Theatr Clera at Welshpool High School on Tuesday, organised and promoted by young students at the school.

The show, which has toured to more than 70 national venues so far, starred actor and writer Maxwell Golden. What a fantastic initiative by such young people.

U3A numbers surging as new interest groups form

by Sue Austin

OSWESTRY'S older generation are proving they are not yet ready to put on their slippers and sit by the fire.

More than 100 people have attended meetings of a new, University of the Third Age group in Oswestry – the second for the town.

With one U3A group thriving the organisers of the Oswestry Borders group says the interest underlines the need for learning activities and events for people of the 'third age' – those no longer in full time work.

Already 16 sub groups have been formed with members signing up to enjoy art, gardening, photography, singing, genealogy, walking, bird watching, computers and ICT, poetry and plays, reading, archaeology, Australian studies and Scrabble.

Maths, Welsh conversation, local history and theatre visits are also planned.

Chairwoman Melva Duley said: "The plan is to keep on growing and include as many people as possible."

She said the ICT group had already attracted a couple who wanted to learn how to talk over the internet to their son and his family in Canada while the U3A is looking for a pianist to accompany its singing group.

"We want to provide opportunities for discussion about how members envisage Oswestry Borders evolving generally. As interest groups develop, new groups will form and more town venues will be considered."

The new organisation meets twice a month at The Centre, in Oak Street from 1.30pm. Every first Wednesday of the month will feature a guest speaker on topics from stem cell research at the Orthopaedic Hospital in Oswestry to the quarrymen of Wales, while every third Wednesday will offer the opportunity for study activities. Other groups will meet in members' homes or at other venues.

"The group must be seen to be impartial and cannot be perceived as supporting political parties or religious groups/theories. On a positive front, however, the group is entitled to study or undertake research into other organisations and philosophies."

Education Co-ordinator Anne Lynch, right, chats with Maggie Quinn, leader of the Poetry Reading and Appreciation group, second left, and new members Brenda Stansbie and Joan Rendell, at the first study meeting on April 17 at Oswestry Borders University of the Third Age (U3A).

Margaret Pritchard, left, planning the speaker meetings calendar with Pat Broadhurst.

Carole Millen, U3A National Development Officer, welcomes all to the launch of Oswestry group.

All hands on deck to enroll 75 new members at the first study meeting.

The Information Communications Technology group will be looking at what makes a good website design at its first meetings.

"ICT covers many areas and continues to develop at a fast pace, so it's important to learn about things that really matter to us. That's why we'll shape the programme to meet the needs and interests of the members," Anne Lynch from the interest group said.

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LETTERS

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It is not too late to stop the cull

I WAS born and brought up in a farming family in the mid 1930s and 40s and have had first-hand experience of the effects TB can cause.

Several schoolfriends died from it, my brother spent many months in hospital due to the disease and I was monitored for a number of years. I well recall that as young children we were very frightened of this disease.

Thanks to an intensive testing and slaughtering campaign, our herd was cleared of bovine TB by 1950 and, as children, we were involved in cleansing the farm buildings, thoroughly scrubbing them with caustic soda, crying with pain as we lost the skin from our fingers.

Having worked with animals on a daily basis for over 70 years and studied nocturnal wildlife, first as a hobby but for the past 21 years professionally, I have taken a keen interest in bTB during that time.

I would like to say this to Owen Paterson the Secretary of State for the Environment: your proposed badger cull, if carried out over the whole of the British Isles would maybe reduce bTB by 12 to 16 per cent over 10 years.

What a waste of time, money and resources!

It would cause an imbalance in nature, and still leave more than 80 per cent of the problem unresolved.

The real causes of the disease are to be found in the cattle industry.

Mr Paterson said the cost to the taxpayer was £500 million over the past 10 years. Surely this is mainly due to the skin test that has been in use since the mid 1930s and is only 80 per cent accurate and fails to identify far too many diseased cattle, which remain in the herds, spreading the disease.

Many farmers experience a clear test only to find out that their cattle are infected with bTB when they are taken to slaughter for other reasons, or cattle that failed the test and went to slaughter are free from bTB.

Independent trials found that in TB hotspots of every eight badgers killed only one will have bTB.

Cattle vaccine is the answer.

It is not too late to call off this proposed badger cull. It takes a very strong man to say "I have got it wrong". I think you have the strength.

GEORGE E PEARCE,
Ruyton XI Towns.

Royal Mail delivering top service

IN RESPONSE to claims that privatisation could wreck our postal service, I would like to set out some important context.

In 2011, Parliament passed the Postal Services Act. It set a framework for private investment in Royal Mail.

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More information can be found at: **www.royalmailgroup.com/access-external-capital**

STUART SIMPSON,
Royal Mail Operations Director,
West Region.

IT looks like a privates' nightmare – a whole pack (maybe the collective term should be "bellow") of Army sergeants all in one place which, according to the front of this postcard, was "Oswestre" – in 1916. The message on the back of the postcard, which was loaned to us by collector Ray Farlow, read: "Dear Nance (sic), arrived back in camp safe at 12 o'clock. Lovely ride back. Shall I come down Thursday night or will you come down to camp? Let me know so I can make arrangements here. Did you sleep well last night? I was dead beat when I finished in the mess about 1.30 this morning. Shall have to go to bed this afternoon to recuperate, Kind Regards, Billy."

County is in need of attracting business

IT is unrealistic to think that cutbacks in the public sector will affect different parts of the country equally.

In London about one in 20 people are employed in the public sector. I think the figure for Shropshire is about one in four – and for some parts of the country as high as one in two.

If you cut back in the public sector, not only do you lose services at the front end in terms of day centres and care, but you take money out of the system that would pass on to private business.

In the long term this means a decay in the infrastructure and a lack of opportunity for youngsters.

Shropshire has to find an answer – and I believe this to be the attraction of business currently based in London. But first you need to accommodate and attract such business and this in turn means providing the right people as well as the right place.

There is a shortage of the right people in London and the French take advantage of that and there are lessons to be learned from this.

They have made a huge success of moving into London grabbing the top jobs in finance and other areas. These are jobs that really could be going to capable home-grown candidates.

The way they do this is by having a highly intensive academic system that hothouses youngsters.

If Shropshire is to attract prime business it needs to run such intensive courses that would attract these firms as well as providing quality candidates for local firms.

This would enable local talent to stay in Shropshire, and enable those who cannot afford further education fees to develop such skills.

The "lower wattage" property market in Shropshire would be attractive to firms facing a shortage of staff without having to recruit at high cost.

When you live in Shropshire you see plenty of raw talent that suffers from a lack of education and a lack of opportunity.

The only way to replace a declining public sector is to create a new infrastructure – and I think that savings from the public sector and savings generated in places like the City of London should be deployed to create this.

ROBIN LLOYD,
Ellesmere.

Gas field is there for the taking

BRITAIN once lead the world in discovery and invention and it brought about the industrial revolution. When discoveries were made they were quickly developed. The steam engine was given wheels and in no time railways ran to every corner of the land.

It is a few years since deposits of gas were discovered off the coast near Blackpool.

Recently they found out that there was 250 times the original estimate. Are we extracting it? No, the energy minister says we need to find out how much there is and if it can be done safely.All he needs to do is go and see what they are doing in the USA. They have harnessed it and their energy costs have fallen dramatically.

RON JONES,
Oswestry.

LETTERS to the Editor

POST	FAX	E-MAIL
Readers' Letters, Oswestry Chronicle, Ketley, Telford TF1 5HU	01952 254605	letters@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters

Fascinating addition to museum collection

THE German Dornier Do 17 bomber is coming to Cosford, where I, along with many others, will be able to see it.

I am an enthusiast in aircraft especially wartime bombers. I make and fly my own – and one is the Do 17's British lookalike, the Handley Page Hampden. Both had a deep fuselage in the wing area and the rest narrow, which gave high speed – both could outrun fighters, rather than being heavily armed. Their tactics were go in fast hit hard and run, so they didn't get confused with their own fighters.

The Dornier was called "The Pencil" by their crews, and the Hampden was called lovingly by their crews "Pan-Handle or "Suitcase"! So it looks if Cosford are going to have twins from different sides of the Second World War. This will make a lot of interest to visitors at the RAF base.

M DAVIES,
Four Crosses, Powys.

Secret court is matter of grave worry

A HEADLINE told of a woman jailed by a court in secret. This reminds me of Hitler, Stalin and other such dictators, such as in General Galtieri in Argentina.

The Court of Protection was set up under the Mental Capacity Act 2005, when Tony Blair was PM. Many were worried about it at the time as they thought it could remove people's liberties.

Whether the lady so jailed for five months for contempt of court was innocent or guilty, that a) she was not present in court; b) had not lawyer to represent her and c) her sentence wasn't made known for six months is cause for concern.

Abu Qatada has legal aid and is represented in courts. Why not this lady?

JANET NORWOOD,
(former care worker),
Oswestry.

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CAN I DO ANYTHING TO FORCE MY BUSINESS PARTNER TO PULL HIS WEIGHT?

Q: My friend and I set up in business as a partnership, but my friend has got family problems and appears to have lost interest in the business. Consequently I am doing the majority of the work whilst he just sits back. What can I do?

A: The first question is whether you have a written partnership agreement? In the absence of any such document the standard position is that you will automatically have a 'Partnership at Will', the terms of which will be governed by the Partnership Act 1890. As this Act is 120 years old, and has general application, the legislation is unlikely to address all the issues that your specific partnership may face. Further, the provisions which will be implied by the Act may therefore not necessarily be helpful to any of the partners, and may not reflect what was agreed in principle or what actually occurs in practice.

According to the 1890 Act, a partnership automatically comes into existence when persons are "carrying on a business in common with a view of profit". Unfortunately, a partner is not however required under the 1890 Act to do anything towards the running of the business, and therefore does not even have to turn up to work. Nevertheless, the default position is that all partners share the profits equally, irrespective of how much time or capital they put into the business.

Even worse from your perspective if you do not have a properly drafted agreement is that under the 1890 Act a partner cannot retire or be expelled. This would therefore leave you with the single option of dissolving the partnership, which would involve dividing the assets and sharing the proceeds (or liabilities) equally between you. All this demonstrates the importance of having a properly drafted partnership agreement drawn up by a Solicitor before entering into any business partnership.

Further information relating to this question is available from Emyr Kerfoot, a Partner with GHP Legal. For information relating to any other legal matter please call GHP Legal on 01691 659194 or visit www.ghplegal.co.uk. For Personal Injury, Employment and Family matters we offer a FREE legal diagnostic clinic every Wednesday 12-3pm (no appointment necessary). GHP Legal holds the Law Society Lexcel Quality Mark Accreditation

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Launch of operation to install new pipes

A MAJOR operation to install three miles of water pipes began near Welshpool this week.

The work by Severn Trent is expected to last up to four months and will mean the closure of part of Manafon Road.

The work started on Tuesday and will be centred around the B4390 Manafon Road near Welshpool.

Dave Cottom, programme manager at Severn Trent Water, said: "By installing five kilometres of new pipes, we are helping to resolve leakage problems and make our Welshpool customers' supply more secure.

"We recognise that while we are working to carry out these essential improvements there may be some disruption to road users.

"We've worked closely with Powys County Council to try to minimise congestion and we expect this work to last around three to four months."

Bosses say that to allow the work to be carried out safely and quickly, Severn Trent Water will be putting temporary traffic lights in place for two weeks.

This will be followed by a road closure on Manafon Road from Pant-Y-Ffridd through to the junction with Fillindre.

There will be a diversion route in place and this will be clearly signed.

Life changing op is success

A 15 YEAR old boy who underwent life changing surgery at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital is being hailed a sporting success by staff.

Frankie Jones from Llanfair Caereinion near Welshpool had the operation at Oswestry eight years ago, which has enabled him to play wheelchair basket ball and golf at national level.

He is one of 47 selected patients with cerebral palsy at the orthopaedic hospital to have benefitted from a specialist procedure to reduce spasticity allowing him to lead an independent life.

by Graham Breeze

For over 18 years, surgeons at the hospital have been performing selective dorsal rhizotomy surgery on suitable patients.

Prior to the operation, Frankie was unable to walk for any great distance before getting tired and he also fell over frequently.

However this did not stop him playing golf and he won the Powys Under-5 Wee Wonders competition and went on to play in the national final at the Celtic Manor.

His mum, Ellen, said: "Frankie could hit the ball but had a caddy for his clubs. It was fine when he was small, as the owner of the golf course, in qualifying rounds, carried him on the round on his shoulders when he got too tired to walk as they didn't have any buggies."

Frankie is very much involved in disability sport, playing wheelchair basketball for Wales and winning the British Junior Disabled Golf Open for the last two years.

Consultant orthopaedic surgeon, Mr Andrew Roberts, said: "We put a great deal of effort into deciding which children are suitable and we carefully follow up patients for life after their operation.

"Frankie was a very suitable patient, both in terms of his good strength and control but also in his determination to succeed. "

Frankie's mum, Ellen Jones, said: "I think Frankie's stubborn and determined characteristics have been key to his sporting success."

Frankie Jones on the golf course.

Workshops on arts and crafts

FREE workshops for older adults based on the traditional arts and crafts used on the Montgomery Canal are to be held at Welshpool.

The workshops will be run by Montgomeryshire Museums' Education and Access Service at the Powysland Museum, thanks to a grant from the Age Cymru Gwanwyn Festival of the Arts for Older People in Wales.

Ten local residential care homes and day centres have taken up the offer and will be able to take part in workshops created and organised by Sara Metcalf, the education and access officer based at the museum.

The workshops use old photographs and real and replica artefacts from the canal.

Participants will be encouraged to create arts and crafts inspired by the traditions of the 'people of the cut' (canal workers) such as lace making, spider web embroidery and crochet, rag rugs, ribbon plates, horse brasses and painted decorative work.

Edwardian theme to party at attraction

PLANS are coming together for the big summer party being held at Powis Castle, which will have a distinctly Edwardian theme.

The Town Council has teamed up with the National Trust for the garden party to be held on June 22. And with thousands expected, it has been confirmed that a free park and ride service will be available from Coed y Dinas.

There will also be a minibus service from the Park Lane Gates in the Town Centre to the Castle.

Gates open at 11am and close at 5pm and already confirmed is a brass band, Maypole dancing, Edwardian competitions and games, fancy dress competition, teddy bears' picnic, craft stalls and more.

Entry will be £2 a head and £1 for children although they will get free entry if they have a teddy bear.

To book a stall space call the town clerk's office on (01938) 553142.

Visiting show

PUPILS AT Welshpool High School arranged for a show which is currently on a national tour to come to town. Country Boys Struggle took to the stage at Theatr Clera at Welshpool High School on Tuesday in an event organised by pupils.

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Make a date to take part in calendar competition

Robert Robinson, Welshpool town clerk and Mayor John Meredith appeal for photos local to Welshpool for their 2013/2014 calendar. *Picture: Mark Booth.*

AMATEUR photographers in Welshpool are being urged to contribute their best shots of local landmarks to a competition to produce a town calendar.

by Iain St John

The deadline is fast approaching for entries to be sent in for the town mayor's calendar competition.

The competition is aimed at people with a passion for photography who would like to see their photograph in print.

Welshpool Town Council will soon be compiling the official town calendar for 2014. Bosses will be selecting the pictures from those submitted by camera enthusiasts around the town.

They say the competition to have work included in the calendar is open to all amateur photographers although they warn that the entry deadline, May 31, is fast approaching.

The pictures should be of local landmarks or places of interest that also include wildlife.

The competition is open only to digital images and should be submitted to the town clerk's office on CD or memory stick or by email.

The top 12 pictures will be included on the calendar. Email **wtcouncil@btinternet.com** for more details.

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Antiques valuation evening at school

A TEAM of experts from a leading regional fine art auction house will be in Llanfair Caereinion to hold an antiques valuation evening at the town's primary school tomorrow.

The experts from Shrewsbury-based Halls will be available from 7pm to 9pm to give appraisals of silver, jewellery, ceramics, clocks, small pieces of furniture, medals, coins, collectibles, toys, militaria and books.

Halls' team will include fine art director Jeremy Lamond, silver and books expert Maryanne Lineker-Mobberley and jewellery, watches, coins and medals specialist Derek Ainsworth.

Entry to the antiques fair, which opens at 6.30pm and includes vintage teas and old fashioned cakes, costs £5, with all the proceeds going to the Friends of Llanfair Caereinion Primary School.

People living in Llanfair Caereinion and the surrounding area are being encouraged to check their storerooms and attics for forgotten items that might be worth a small fortune.

Jeremy Lamond, of Halls, said: "The exciting part of holding these charity valuation events is that we have no idea what is going to turn up."

For more details call Christine Haslam at the school on (01938) 810470 or Halls on (01743) 450700.

Farmer with 25-year show link to take over at helm

A FARMER with a 25-year association with Oswestry Show has been appointed its chairman.

Malcolm Roberts, who farms at Maesbury and has taken over at the helm from former chairman Phil Jones, who was in the post for five years, said he was delighted to have been given the role.

He said: "It is a privilege to have the role and I would pay tribute to the hard work carried out by Phil.

"He was chairman for five shows and he leaves the show society and the business in a tremendous situation.

"His work over the last five years has been second to none and he has really moved the society forward.

"He has put the society in a good state for the future and his work must be commended. I am a local farmer and have been involved in the show for many years.

"I must have started about 25 years ago through the young farmers."

Mr Roberts said he would look to carry on the success of the show, which regularly attracts up to 20,000 people, as well as introduce new attractions and features.

He said: "You always have to look forward and look at home to move things forward. One thing we are doing is to change the layout of the show a bit to try to freshen things up a bit.

"We want to allow the public to enjoy all aspects of the show and a change to the layout of the show will help.

"You look for different attractions as well to freshen things up.

"But of course we are an agricultural show and we will maintain that connection indefinitely, it is most important."

Mr Roberts said he hoped this year's event on August 3 would enjoy good weather after last year's event tailed off earlier than normal because of a rain storm.

He said: "You always hope for good weather, not just on the day of the show but also when you are preparing for it."

by Iain St John

With the Oswestry Show trophies, was Oswestry mayor, Martin Bennett, with the Best Business (non food) Trade Stand trophy, and show chairman, Malcolm Roberts, with the Best Food Hall Trade Stand trophy. *Picture: Peter Flemmich.*

Gardener on track for show

AN award-winning garden designer from Oswestry has been putting the final touches to her Tour de France-themed show garden at the RHS Malvern Spring Show which starts today (Thursday).

Teresa Rham, from Oswestry, has been exploring the minds of world-class cyclists Bradley Wiggins and Mark Cavendish over the past few months by watching hours of their gruelling races as research for the show garden.

Entitled Single Track Mind, Teresa said her final design represented the mental strength that these top athletes need, not only to complete one of the tour's stages but also to last the distance and complete the whole three-week race. She said: "The scheme has three distinct planting zones to represent different stages of the race."

"A number of local companies are helping Teresa's vision come to life, including The Dingle nurseries in Welshpool.

Group to target MP in protest over cuts

A COUNTY campaign group is planning to protest later this month outside North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson's weekly surgeries against Government cuts.

Activists from Shropshire Fights Back have already targeted Shrewsbury MP Daniel Kawczynski and say they are putting together details for a similar protest against Mr Paterson.

The campaigners are calling for a halt to the Government's programme of austerity cuts.

The group says they want to take their message directly to the Government by targeting its MPs.

Jayne McDermott, from Shropshire Fights Back, said: "We are still working on the details about when the protest will take place and where but we are asking now for people to get in touch with us if they are interested in joining the protest.

"It will be sometime in May and people who are interested in joining us should contact us through our website at **www.shropshirefightsback.org.uk**

"We want to get the message across to Owen Paterson that people don't agree with these cuts. Our activities so far have been based in and around Shrewsbury but we want to go to other places and involve other people who feel as we do."

WIN two tickets to RAF Cosford Air Show

To celebrate RAF Cosford's 75th anniversary year we're giving you the chance to win a pair of tickets to the Royal Air Force Cosford Air Show 2013, which returns this summer on Sunday, June 9 with an extravaganza of entertainment for all the family.

Photograph by John Dibbs

Visitors will be treated to non-stop entertainment on the ground whilst in the air a number of historic aircraft including the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, the last airworthy B-17 Flying Fortress in Europe and Avro Vulcan XH558 from the Vulcan to the Sky Trust, as well as the famous RAF Red Arrows have all been confirmed.

All profits from the RAF Cosford Air Show are donated to local and service charities in support of military personnel and their families.

Tickets are £20.00 in advance, £25 on the day (cash only) and FREE for children under 16 when they are accompanied by an adult. Car parking is free. Tickets can be purchased at www.cosfordairshow.co.uk, or call the credit/debit card 24-hour ticket line: 0871 230 1083 (calls are 10p per min plus network charges).

COSFORD AIR SHOW 2013 75

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Appeal for ex-pupils to share life story

AN Oswestry secondary school is asking for past pupils to get in touch and share their experiences of life outside the classroom.

Governors at the Marches School are setting up a database of past pupils and hope to use it to arrange events and activities.

This will include celebrating achievements on the school website and inviting past pupils back to the school to talk to the present youngsters.

Amy Gregory, publicity and marketing officer at The Marches School, said: "We regularly hear, through various channels, about the range of fantastic careers past students go on to have so we would love people to get in touch, tell us what they are doing now and start to develop an active alumni network."

The school is delighted to have already heard from a number of past pupils who are keen to share their experiences.

They include Jesse Armstrong, ex-Marches School pupils and accomplished comedy writer best known for Channel 4 comedy Peep Show and BBC2's The Thick of It.

Any past pupils who would like to join the alumni network should email Amy Gregory at **alumni@marchesschool.net** for more details.

Cyclist seeks good samaritan who helped after accident

AN Oswestry pensioner who suffered horrific injuries when he came off his bike is appealing for the motorist he believes may have saved his life to come forward.

Mike Bickford, 68, says the driver blocked off the road with his car to stop other vehicles striking him as he lay unconscious and badly injured in the road.

Mr Bickford, who suffered two broken elbows and serious injuries to his face and wrists, wants to say thank you in person to the motorist.

by Iain St John

The retired firefighter came off his bike at about 9.25pm on April 16 on Wat's Drive near to its junction with Coppice Drive.

He believes he struck the edge of a fire hydrant, left exposed by a pothole although says he has no recollection of the crash, having been unconscious for about half an hour.

Mr Bickford said: "It was a clear night, I was not going too fast and I was cycling with a light on. All I remember is the road surface turning very gravelly.

"I presume that was the pothole which I believe has now been filled in. Then I just remember this bang and then coming over the handlebars of the bike.

"My next vague recollection is of paramedics helping me in to the ambulance and my first full recollection is sitting in the back of the ambulance.

"That was about half an hour after the crash so I was out for about half an hour.

"I have pieced together what I think what happened from what I have been told and heard. It seems a driver must have seen me in the road and they blocked the road with their car and called for an ambulance.

"I don't know who it was and I have been unable to trace them so I am asking through the Shropshire Star to contact me so I can thank them.

"I would ask them or anybody who knows them to contact the Shropshire Star Oswestry office and we can get in touch.

"I hate to think what could have happened if a car had come around and hit me as I lay there."

Mr Bickford was taken to the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital for treatment. Among his injuries was a facial fracture, cuts around his eyes and two broken elbows.

Mike Bickford after his bike accident.

Mr Bickford has been recovering at home.

Club talk about life on a sugar plantation

MEMBERS of a club for retired professionals in Ellesmere heard a talk on what life was like on a South American sugar plantation in the early 1960s.

Edward Pugh gave a talk to Ellesmere Probus Club on Thursday (May 2) about his work as a technical field superintendent on a vast estate in what was then British Guiana in 1961.

He had just graduated from agricultural college when, at the age of 21, he took the job to determine the optimum time for harvesting the sugar cane based on the level to which the sugar had risen in the plants.

He revealed some of the technical procedures involved in extracting the sugar, but in the main described what life was like for a young man thousands of miles away from home in an undeveloped country where most roads were just 'burnt earth'.

The next meeting of the group is at Ellesmere Comrades Club on June 6, starting at 10.30am. Bill Johnstone will give a talk about the Gretna Secret War.

The club's annual outing, a visit to Bury Market followed by a ride on the East Lancashire Railway, takes place on June 19.

A further trip is being planned for September.

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Parish members strongly object to 69-home scheme

PARISH councillors say they 'strongly object' to plans to build nearly 70 homes in Morda.

Members of Oswestry Rural Parish Council say they fear the plans for 69 new houses, including nine affordable homes will create traffic problems and argue that the proposed site is outside the village boundary.

The council lodged its objection in response to an application for outline approval by applicants Mr and Mrs Hughes of Llawrypant, Selattyn, who want to build the houses in Weston Road, Morda. They say the plans will help address the lack of affordable homes.

by Iain St John

The couple also say their plans meet Shropshire's five-year housing supply targets. The plans follow approval of a separate planning application to build 21 homes in the area by Severnside Housing group.

Although the 69-home plans will include a £440,000 payment for community infrastructure improvements, members of Oswestry Rural Parish Council say they are unacceptable.

In their objection to Shropshire Council, the parish councillors say: "The parish council strongly objects to this development.

"The development sits outside the village boundary and the council decided not to support any building developments until after they have consulted with its local community to determine future need and development scale.

"This council also objected to the affordable housing of 21 houses on a nearby site but the application was allowed anyway.

"Morda has seen large-scale development in recent years increasing traffic movement and with Weston Road and Kingfisher Way as the main access routes for this development the situation will become worse.

"Weston Road is an unclassified lane with no pavements and is already a busy commuter route to access the Maesbury Road Industrial Estate.

"Kingfisher Way is a very quiet residential area but with the increased traffic from 60-plus houses it will become a rat run.

"There is also a safety factor with the suggestion regarding routing of a footpath through the village hall car park to St Annes Drive. This will be a danger to pedestrians crossing it."

Several Morda residents have also written to Shropshire Council with their objections Shropshire Council hope to make a decision on the application by July 12.

Party forms protest parade

Protesters at Cae Glas Park in Oswestry. ***Picture: Peter Flemmich.***

DEMONSTRATORS took to the streets of Oswestry, opposing the Government's austerity policies on Saturday.

The peaceful protest began at the gates at Cae Glas Park and made its way through Church Street and Bailey Street to the Bailey Head in Oswestry.

More than a dozen people of all ages joined the demonstration, organised by the 99 per cent People's Unity Party, tying in with a larger demonstration at the Houses of Parliament in London on Saturday. The newly created national party is calling for a fairer tax system.

It was arranged by Deborah Harris because a member of the Shifty Chicken Shed band she plays in was friends with the organiser of the London march.

"I wasn't able to travel down to London so thought, why not organise a peaceful protest in Oswestry?" Deborah said."We want to protest against the austerity measures which are having such an effect on the ordinary people. Everything from the bedroom tax to the cuts in the NHS and the police is having repercussions on all but the most wealthy in Britain."

One of the speakers at the event in Oswestry was Green Party member and newly appointed town councillor, Duncan Kerr.He said: "The event has been organised by the 99 per cent group, which is along the same principle as the Occupy movement."The group opposes policies which benefit one per cent of the richest people of the country."

Record shop heralds new era for vinyl fans

A COPY of legendary Smiths' record This Charming Man has signalled a new era for Oswestry music fans desperate for a taste of vinyl.

The famous EP was the first record to be sold at Oswestry's new Outwhere Records shop after it opened its doors for the first time last week.

The Beatrice Street shop means the town has an outlet stocking vinyl records and CDs for the first time in 20 years.

It was opened by music fan Gordon Mills, who said he was delighted with the initial response.

Browse

The 53-year-old said: "It has been great. We have had a steady trickle of people coming in, which has been lovely.

"A lot of people have been coming in just to have a look at what we have got and to browse through our collections.

"A lot of music fans just enjoy the browse. There is something special about it."

Mr Mills, a former learning disabilities nurse, was encouraged to open the new business by friends from the People's Vinyl Collective, a group which meets weekly at The Ironworks to play some of their favourite tunes and chat about music.

He said: "It has been as much about chat as about doing business on the first opening day.

"It is great to see so many people who are enthusiastic about vinyl records and about music."

Mr Mills, from Morda, said it was a pleasure to chat to music fans and offer them advice.

He said: "Customers have been asking about styluses, for example, so I have been telling them about a chap in Wrexham who sells styluses.

"I used to go in there a lot and would spend about two hours browsing.

"Other customers have been telling me about new record labels. It has been an education listening to what they have been saying."

Outwhere Records offers new and used records as well as selling online to people around the country.

Mr Mills said: "I want to have lots of trade and I will cater for anyone who's interested, especially the young ones. I'll try to supply as many people who as interested in music as possible."

Model railway show returns

OSWESTRY will host its first model railway show since the 1970s at the Cambrian Heritage Railways Station this summer.

Organised in conjunction with the Borders Model Railway Club and billed as the Cambrian RailEx, the event will take place between 10am and 5pm on Sunday, July 21.

Fifteen layouts have been booked to attend, to be displayed on both ground and first floors of the Victorian building.

The admission price of £6 for adults and £5 concessions includes a ride in the brake van train between Oswestry station and Middleton Road Bridge – in addition to a trip on the CHR's other operation at Llynclys. Children will be admitted free.

For more information, visit **www.bordersmodelrailwayclub.com** and **www.cambrianrailways.com**

Couple taking on 3,000-mile Gumball rally

AN Oswestry couple will be rubbing shoulders with stars including US TV actor David Hasselhoff and skateboarding legend Tony Hawk when they take part in legendary 3,000 mile rally across Europe.

Karl and Helen Hartey will be taking part in the Gumball 3000 rally which will see them travel from Copenhagen to Monaco.

The couple from Bronygarth near Oswestry will be covering 12 countries in less than a week during the marathon drive.

Money raised through the rally goes to the Gumball 3000 Foundation which provides support and opportunities to young people.

Mr Hartey said he was delighted to get involved in the project because its aims are similar to that of a foundation set up in memory of his daughter Charlotte who died after being misdiagnosed with swine flu.

The Charlotte Hartey Foundation carries out various fundraising projects and money raised is passed on to local youth projects in the Oswestry area.

Mr Hartey, an Oswestry entrepreneur and managing director of Applewood Wealth Management, said: "The race will be adventure across eastern Europe covering 12 countries in six days of hard and fast driving.

"I have been planning to take a summer sabbatical this year, and this is a great way to kick it off."

The rally starts in Copenhagen on May 18 and covers 3,000 miles before arriving in Monaco.

The drivers will have pit stops in Stockholm, Helsinki , St Petersburg , Riga, Warsaw, Vienna finally getting to Monaco in time for the city's Grand Prix weekend.

An increasing number of celebrities have been attracted to the rally over recent years.

As well as David Hasselhoff and Tony Hawk, other celebrities taking part in the event include members of the bands Cypress Hill and Nero, musician Xzibit, and Bun B.

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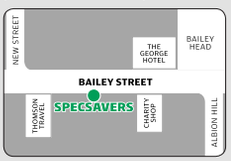

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NEWS in brief

Manchester trip for senior citizens

THE Oswestry Senior Citizens' Club is holding a trip to Manchester today.

Passengers can choose to visit the Trafford Park Shopping Centre or Salford Quays for the Imperial War Museum and The Lowry Art Gallery as well as shopping.

The coach departs at 9am.

There are also spaces on this year's Turkey and Tinsel Holiday.

The holiday is from Monday, November 4 to 8 and will be at The Chatsworth Hotel in Worthing.

To book, contact (01691) 680202.

Project preparing to hold its AGM

OSWESTRY'S schools Christian worker project will hold its AGM on June 13.

It will take place at Carreg Llwyd Church in Laburnum Drive in the town, beginning at 7.30pm.

During the meeting, school worker Ben Mayho will give a presentation of his highlights of the year.

All are welcome to attend.

Yoga at centre

A NEW yoga class is being held every Monday from 7pm until 8pm at Caereinion Leisure Centre, Llanfair Caereinion. For more information ring the leisure centre on (01938) 810634.

Skating and BMX centre is getting a warm reception

A NEWLY-opened indoor skatepark is helping to transform an industrial estate into a major activity zone for visitors from near and far, bosses say.

Crispin Wrigley and his partner Krissy Simpson opened up Academy Skatepark at Rednal Industrial Estate near Oswestry last month to create a new visitor attraction.

And the 5,000 square feet centre has already proved popular as skaters and bikers from Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Welshpool and from further afield including Birmingham have been arriving to try out their skills and tricks on a range of specially made jumps and platforms.

by Iain St John

The new centre was designed by Mr Wrigley, 36, from Oswestry who also made all ramps and jumps himself, using recycled wood.

The businessman said: "The Academy is a brand new skatepark facility located on the outskirts of Oswestry. The park design accommodates skateboarding, BMX, blades and scooters alike, and incorporates a varied yet flowing setup for all levels of experience.

"Equipment is available for hire and our shop stocks everything you will ever need to take part.

"We insist that all users under 16 years old must wear a helmet at all times whilst in the skatepark. We also recommend that knee and elbow pads are worn at all times.

"Anyone of six years and upwards can ride or skate in the park as long as they can prove their proficiency and lessons are on hand to get them up to that level quickly.

"It has gone well since we opened and we have been attracting interest from a wide area including visitors from Birmingham and we have regulars from Bridgnorth.

"I think creating this new skatepark is helping develop the industrial estate into Oswestry's main activity zone – there is also go-karting, paintballing and hovercrafting.

"Adding to what is already there is making the area a real attraction."

Opening times are 4pm-8pm weekdays, 10am-10pm Saturdays and 10am-8pm Sundays.

Fundraisers to help national week of events

A SERIES of events will be held in Oswestry as part of this year's Christian Aid week.

On Saturday, there will be a coffee morning and bring and buy sale from 10am until noon at 10 Oak Drive.

Then on Sunday, there will be a service at Oswestry Methodist Church at 6.30pm with guest speaker Peter Kelsall, a representative from Christian Aid, due to explain more about the charity's work.

On Saturday, May 18, there will be a street collection at The Cross and outside Sainsbury's in Oswestry.

Anyone able to help with the collection at Sainsbury's is asked to contact Richard Beaman on (01691) 659166.

Centre launches book swap

THE Oswestry Visitor and Exhibition Centre is running a book exchange. Members of the public can swop books for a small donation to charity. Currently the centre is collecting for Britains pet charity, The Blue Cross. Handing in a book to exchange, was Sue Miller, from the centre. *Picture: Peter Flemmich.*

Scores to take part in canal challenge

MORE than 100 people have already signed up for a challenge to cycle, canoe and walk along the Montgomery Canal.

The second Montgomery Canal Triathlon, this year entitled Bikes, Boats 'n' Boots, will be held on May 11.

Starting from Newtown on bicycles, entrants change to canoes in Welshpool and finish the 35-mile canal on foot, walking from Llanymynech to Welsh Frankton.

This year's event is organised by the Friends of the Montgomery Canal and supported by the Canal & River Trust, Shropshire Paddlesport and the Shrewsbury, District and North Wales branch of the Inland Waterways Association.

Christine Palin, chairman of the Friends of the Montgomery Canal, said: "Last year's triathlon was such a success, and we are delighted with the news that it has reached the finals of the Waterways Renaissance Awards. The winner will be announced in Birmingham in late May."

Cyclists will start on the Severn Way at Newtown at 9am. The canoe section will start from Welshpool Wharf at 10.30am, but cyclists who arrive sooner may start earlier; and similar arrangements will be in place for walkers starting from Llanymynech at 2.30pm.

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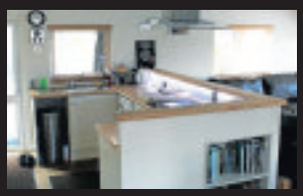

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On the Road

BMW in tie-up with England rugby team

BMW is the vehicle partner to the England rugby union team. The four-year partnership with the RFU will see the German car brand title sponsor England's youth development programme and serve as the shirt sponsor for the under-16, under-18 and under-20 national teams from September.

It marks the first time that the shirt sponsor for the youth teams will differ from the senior squad, which is sponsored by O2.

Additionally, BMW will develop promotions to be delivered through the RFU's digital channels at Twickenham.

Financial details were not disclosed, however RFU chief commercial officer, Sophie Goldschmidt, says the deal is "significantly more" than its current deal with Tata Motors-owned Land Rover.

She added: "Land Rover were keen to continue the relationship, however we made the decision to partner with BMW because the breadth of the relationship allowed us to continue our strategy of developing grassroots Rugby in the UK."

The partnership follows other recent RFU tie-ups with Canterbury, O2, and GSK.

BMW Group UK managing director Tim Abbott, said: "The game is a perfect brand fit for us and this news comes as a natural extension of the work we have already done to support some of the UK's leading sports stars."

The brand has a number of sports sponsorships, including one as a top tier partner of this year's Olympic Games and a multi-year deal with Puma.

By supporting players from the age of 15 through the journey to the senior squad, BMW hopes to help shape the future of England Rugby.

The BMW Performance Academy identifies the key players of tomorrow, and supports their development today, to ensure the growth and sustainability of the national team.

The England rugby coaches have selected more than 30 promising players from the RFU's elite age grade development programme (under-16, under-18 and under-20), along with over-20s close to breaking into the senior squad, to be part of the BMW Performance Academy.

Potential

Based on their considered potential to graduate to the elite England team, members of the BMW Performance Academy will receive tailored support to help them progress. The player, club coach and the RFU work together to create an individual development plan to ensure that the key skills required for that particular individual are specially developed. The close relationship with the club coach in the development of this plan is very important to its success and a vital component to ensure a consistent training approach.

BMW facilitates the sharing of expertise and skills held by the array of BMW ambassadors, Olympians, TV personalities and industry leaders to impart knowledge to Academy members on a range of topics.

BMW will be sponsoring the England rugby union youth development programme

Oswestry thrilled with partnership

Oswestry Rugby Club has senior and junior sections

Oswestry Rugby Club is really thrilled to be involved in this unique partnership between BMW and the RFU.

As a club with a large senior section and a thriving junior set-up, it is particularly pleased to be associated with such a successful brand.

Steve Charmley, club chairman, said: "The values which we try to instill into all our players and those which the club abides to, are very similar to those synonymous with BMW. As a club we try to be reliable with high performance levels whilst providing value for money to our members."

Oswestry Rugby Club is based at Granville Park in Park Hall, near Oswestry. The club was reformed in 1976 and has gone from strength to strength.

The club has three senior sides plus a large mini and junior section with teams from under-7s to under-17s.

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Term of agreement	48 months
Annual mileage	8,000 miles
Customer deposit	£949.00
Dealer deposit contribution	£2,810.52
Total deposit	£3,759.52
On the road cash price*	£23,100.00
Amount of credit	£19,340.48
Rate of interest (fixed)	4.9% APR
Credit arrangement fee^	£0.00
Option to purchase fee**	£10.00
Optional final payment	£8,113.50
Total amount payable	£25,748.02
APR	Representative 4.9%
Excess mileage charge	5.10 pence

Official fuel economy figures for the BMW 1 Series Coupé and Convertible range: Urban 23.2-53.3mpg (12.2-5.3l/100km). Extra Urban 41.5-70.6mpg (6.8-4.0l/100km). Combined 32.8-62.8mpg (8.6-4.5l/100km). CO2 emissions 200-118g/km.

Model	Representative Example: **BMW 118i Sport Plus Edition Convertible**
Monthly payment	£279.00
Term of agreement	48 months
Annual mileage	8,000 miles
Customer deposit	£3,104.46
Dealer deposit contribution	£3,342.60
Total deposit	£6,447.06
On the road cash price*	£28,140.00
Amount of credit	£21,692.94
Rate of interest (fixed)	2.9% APR
Credit arrangement fee^	£0.00
Option to purchase fee**	£10.00
Optional final payment	£10,444.50
Total amount payable	£30,014.56
APR	Representative 2.9%
Excess mileage charge	7.20 pence

Official fuel economy figures for the BMW 1 Series Coupé and Convertible range:Urban 23.2-53.3mpg (12.2-5.3l/100km). Extra Urban 41.5-70.6mpg (6.8-4.0l/100km). Combined 32.8-62.8mpg (8.6-4.5l/100km). CO2 emissions 200-118g/km.

Finance examples are based on BMW Select Agreements for the model(s) selected above. *On the road cash prices are based on manufacturers recommended retail price and include 3 year BMW dealer warranty, BMW Emergency Service, 12 months road fund license, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and VAT. **Option to purchase fee and optional final payment payable at the end of the agreement if you decide to purchase the vehicle. Excess mileage charges and vehicle condition charges may be payable if you return the vehicle. Retail customers only. All finance is subject to status and available to over 18's only (excluding the Channel Islands and Isle of Man). Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Advertised finance is provided by BMW Financial Services, Europa House, Bartley Way, Hook Hampshire RG27 9UF. Offer(s) available on selected models ordered between 01 April 2013 and 30 June 2013 and registered by 30 September 2013, subject to availability. Prices are correct at time of going online (April 2013) and are subject to change without notice.

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Paceman is a unique blend

You'd be hard pressed to find anyone who thinks that MINI doesn't know what it's doing when it comes to niche marketing.

Its John Cooper Works sub-brand has been a sales blockbuster, so it's no surprise that a JCW flagship has followed so soon after the Paceman arrived.

But is this a shameless dilution of the brand, or a worthy expansion of JCW performance potential?

The Paceman doesn't, perhaps, occupy the most obvious niche MINI has yet entered, with a raised compact SUV-like driving position, a sloping, coupe-like roof line and three doors, so there are some who have already dismissed the JCW Paceman as a marketing exercise.

But they're wrong. There's real talent under the Paceman's skin to match its beefy and aggressive looks; you just have to dig a little to find it.

More of that after a closer look at the car's raw ingredients.

The John Cooper Works Paceman with its sloping coupe-like roofline

The Paceman is as happy at urban speeds as howling along on mountain passes

Turbocharged

Under the bonnet you'll find a 215bhp turbocharged 1.6-litre petrol engine, much the same as in any other John Cooper Works model.

But in the Paceman, which shares the five-door Countryman's chassis, it's linked to four-wheel drive which gives its own advantages and drawbacks.

Thanks to massive traction and advanced electronic back-up systems it's almost impossible to spin any of the wheels away from a standstill for more than an instant, even on snow.

Of course the system does bring a weight penalty but it's worth the trade-off for the improvement in driveability.

It helps to provide seriously stable handling, and with the test carried out in near-freezing conditions on cold weather tyres the JCW Paceman could really strut its stuff and show off the delightful compliancy in its chassis when it's being pushed hard.

If you're lacking commitment along a country road the car can actually feel quite awkward with a bouncy ride and boomy engine between 2,000 and 3,000rpm, and it's only when you up the ante and go all out that the JCW Paceman shows you what it can do.

The ride becomes astonishingly composed, with the suspension absorbing all kinds of hits in its stride and seldom nudging the car off its line at all.

There's some initial body roll in corners which is to be expected with a car of this height and weight, but all in all it's a great set-up for fast road use.

Revved hard the engine has a rorty zing. At higher speeds the initially slightly artificial-feeling steering gives way to impressive feedback and accuracy and the front end becomes nicely active mid-corner, pulling towards or pushing away from the apex depending on your throttle inputs.

Squeeze

Through corners a natural tendency towards slight understeer is countered with a squeeze of the go-pedal, which turns it into neutrality and rapid forward motion in a heartbeat.

With a relatively soft power delivery, though, it's done so in a very forgiving way.

The JCW Paceman isn't about to catch you out or spit you into a tree, and in fact it's almost impossible within the limits of sane driving to get the rear end to move much at all. But it still feels lighter than its 1,475kg. It feels agile and eager to attack bends in the same way as the smaller JCW hatchback.

There's some turbo lag and there are faster-responding turbocharged engines out there, but this is a user-friendly choice and is as happy trundling along at urban speeds as it is howling along mountain passes.

Either way, the gearbox is on the firmer side when you're sliding the lever between the six ratios, but it's set up well with just enough notchy feeling to let you know each gear is properly located.

Its only flaw is that it's a little too easy to find reverse instead of first.

But of course the driving experience isn't the real reason people will buy this car.

It's the other factors that the driving experience is balanced with, like the raised driving position – which, with the amount of headroom still on offer, reminds you how big the Paceman really is – and the dual-layer boot floor for extra practicality.

It's no family car but it does have useful luggage space. Getting in and out is easy, aside from a notable rearward stretch to grab the seat belt.

The Paceman cuts out some of the light for rear passengers compared to the Countryman so it's less suited to carrying four people, but the perches are there should they be needed.

There are a number of reasons why the JCW Paceman shouldn't make sense and it's certainly not a cheap choice, but it's completely unique in its blend of looks and talents, and like it or not it's a blast to drive. On that basis it's going to win fans.

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530d M Sport Saloon N57 3.0d	Azurite Black	Oyster Dakota leather	12 Plate	£28,950
318i Saloon M43 1.9	Silver	Cloth	11 Plate	£28,950
525d M Sport Touring N57 3.0d	Space Grey	Dakota Black Leather	11 Plate	£28,950
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On the Road

Named number one for new vehicle sales

Greenhous has been named number one in the area for new Vauxhall vehicle sales. The Shropshire and Staffordshire based dealership has added to an already successful 2012 with yet another award, following on from commercial vehicle and customer satisfaction success.

The Greenhous Vauxhall sites in Telford and Shrewsbury have come out on top by achieving the highest market share in the area of representation above the likes of Ford and Volkswagen.

"To receive another award for our success in 2012 is a fantastic achievement," said Richard Potts, sales director at Greenhous.

"After being named number one for commercial vehicle sales along with winning Vauxhall's Customer Excellence Award, being recognised for our new vehicle sales is the icing on the cake.

Higher

"Both sites have a combined market share of 16 per cent which is six per cent higher than the national average for Vauxhall. This not only puts us in a good position for the rest of the year, but also cements the groups highly successful 2012."

Richard believes the high sales figures are down to a number of contributing factors.

"The success is a reflection of all the hard work and dedication from everyone involved over the past year. We have also had a number of great offers which have no doubt appealed to our customers.

"The release of two brand new models into two new sectors definitely put Vauxhall back on the map. The Ampera was revolutionary in becoming the first electric vehicle to offer a 360-mile range and that along with the Mokka, which entered the mini-SUV market at the end of the year, was a great success.

"We also held a couple of major events throughout the year including the Vauxhall Big Event and the VIP Weekend which allowed a select few loyal customers to come in for individual appointments and view exclusive offers. These were both a great way to get customers into the showroom and we already have numerous events planned for the rest of the year.

Richard added: "This latest accolade confirms that Greenhous is a real force to be reckoned with in the motoring industry. We have a very exciting year ahead with both the ADAM and the Cascada having recently been released and we are expecting big things for the future."

Dan Foskett, sales manager at Telford and Steve Rownson, sales manager at Shrewsbury with award

Winner of ADAM test drive

A lucky winner has recently bagged the exclusive prize of test driving the Vauxhall ADAM for a week. The competition ran throughout the Greenhous ADAM launch which took place in Telford Town Centre back in March.

Lynn Upton-Roddy from Craven Arms, was picked out of 122 other entrants to take home the new urban-chic car and try it for herself over a week long period. The competition was part of the ADAM launch in Telford Town Centre which saw each model; the JAM, GLAM and SLAM, displayed for the first time.

"The ADAM was really exciting and fun to drive," said Lynn.

Lynn Upton-Roddy and James Wilkes with the Vauxhalll ADAM

Thrilled

"I was interested in the car as soon as I heard about it and spent time configuring my own version on the website before I came to the launch in Telford and entered the competition. I was thrilled to actually win and have the chance to drive one before anyone else."

The ADAM was launched last month and is the first time Vauxhall has entered the 'supermini' sector to rival the Fiat 500 and the MINI. With three different trim packs and over a million different design combinations, Vauxhall have taken customisation to the next level.

The recent offering from Vauxhall boasts competitively low price points combined with state-of-the-art interior features in order to target a younger, more fashion-forward market.

Lynn said: "The car itself is funky and bright, and definitely turned a few heads whilst I was driving it. I loved the LED lights in the ceiling, especially when driving at night. Although it is compact, it felt really spacious and the front seats slide far enough forward to make the back easily accessible.

"The interior of the car was lovely, especially the roof and dashboard and Vauxhall has clearly made an effort to get all the finishing touches right. The ADAM would be perfect for young singles or couples and I would definitely consider getting one for my daughter. If I was to buy one I would love the 'Purple Fiction' or 'Pump up the Blue' colours."

James Wilkes, head of e-commerce, said: "Running competitions like this are great because the customer gets to drive a brand new car that has only just been released before anyone else.

"It also means that we get a genuine insight into how the customer feels about the car, providing us with invaluable feedback. We are delighted that Lynn enjoyed driving the ADAM and was positive about her test driving experience.

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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Cascada Elite 1.4i 16v VVT Turbo (140PS) Start/Stop: Urban: 35.8 (7.9), Extra-urban: 51.4 (5.5), Combined: 44.8 (6.3). CO_2 emissions 149g/km.

Model shown Cascada Elite 1.4i 16v VVT Turbo (140PS) Start/Stop £26,100 with 20" Alloy Wheels £1,000, Two-coat Pearlescent Paint £525, Front Parking Distance Sensors £385, Premium Forward Lighting Pack £790, Premium Leather Pack £1,200. Total OTR cost £30,000. Prices and specifications correct at time of going to print. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. Visit www.vauxhall.co.uk/warranty

Touch more luxury for sporty SL-Class

The Mercedes SL-Class is now even more luxurious, thanks to enhanced standard equipment and key exterior appointments, mixing style with comfort and advanced engineering.

Both the SL 350 and SL 500 now gain AMG Sport status, which includes additional standard equipment with a combined value of £6,625, including the AMG Sports Package for both the interior and exterior, an electric glass sunroof, and Parktronic with Active Park Assist.

The exterior AMG Sports Package comprises elegant 19in AMG five-spoke alloy wheels; sports suspension lowered by 10mm, with revised damper settings; AMG bodystyling for side skirts and front and rear aprons; a body-coloured boot lip; upgraded braking system (SL 350 only) with perforated rear brake disks; and grey brake calipers with 'Mercedes-Benz' lettering.

Leather

Joining the upgraded suspension and braking systems, the 7G-Tronic Plus transmission with 'S' mode now features modified shift points. Inside, the SLS now benefits from sports seats with perforated leather, vertical fluting and Platinum White Pearl piping on door armrests, centre console, seat side bolsters and head restraints; sports steering wheel with silver gear shift paddles and perforated leather in grip areas; chequered flag-design instrument cluster; AMG floor mats; and black fabric roof lining.

The paint and interior choice have also been updated to now include one non-metallic paint and five metallic paints, including new Polar White as standard, with the cost option of two addition colours, including new Hyacinth Red (£690). Black leather is now standard in the range, with a cost option of Bengal Red or Porcelain nappa leather (£710), and standard trim is now in Light Brushed Aluminium, with Black Ash Wood available as a £345 option.

The SL 63 AMG, also benefits of an electric panoramic glass sunroof and Parktronic with Active Park Assist as additions to the standard equipment specifications, with a value of £1,500. There are no changes to the SL 65 AMG.

The SL 350 AMG Sport, from £69,960 OTR, SL 500 AMG Sport, from £79,970 OTR, and SL 63 AMG from £110,785 OTR, are available from June 2013 production.

The Mercedes SL-Class now benefits from enhanced standard equipment

New tariff for servicing plan

Servicing a new or used Mercedes-Benz has been made even more affordable with the announcement of a new tariff for the Service Care plan, with cover for 10 models now available for less than £1 a day.

The Service Care plan provides motorists with an easy way to budget for all servicing costs and spreads bills in to manageable payments. The price of parts and labour are guaranteed for up to four services and only Mercedes-Benz genuine parts are used, which come with a two-year unlimited mileage warranty. Any additional items which are required at the time of servicing are also included, such as brake fluid, spark plugs, air filter, fuel filer and screen wash.

Lowest

The exciting new A-Class is now available under the Service Care plan for £22.50 a month – the lowest price that the plan has ever been offered on a Mercedes-Benz.

With Service Care, the vehicle is only worked on by manufacturer-approved technicians, at any Mercedes-Benz retailer of choice across the UK. When the service is complete, the digital or hard copy service book will be updated, and if the plan has been paid for upfront, the Service Care package can be transferred to the new owner if the vehicle is sold.

Depending on the model, prices start from less than £1 per day, with payments spread across a choice of options:

- Two services spread over 12 or 24 months.
- Three services spread over 12, 24 or 36 months.
- Four services spread over 12, 24, 36 or 48 months.

The Service Care plan is a great option for Mercedes drivers

Alternatively, Mercedes-Benz owners can pay upfront in a single payment for a Service Care plan, which gives the added benefit of being able to pass on any unused services if the car is sold.

The B-Class Service Care plan now costs from £23 per month, new CLA from £24.50, C-Class and SLK from £26.00, Viano, E-, CLS- M-, GL- and R-Class from £29.00, S-, SL- and CL-Class from £400, and the G-Class is from £50 per month.

The new E-Class SE Saloon. Sharper than ever.

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Representative example for a Mercedes-Benz New E 220 CDI SE Saloon Automatic - Metallic

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Customer Deposit	**£4,745.90**	Total Amount Payable	**£37,574.90**
Retailer Deposit Contribution	**£3,400.00**	Credit Acceptance Fee	**£180.00**
		Purchase Activation	**£95.00**
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Official government fuel consumption figures in mpg (litres per 100km) for the new E-Class range: urban 20.9(13.5)-68.9(4.1), extra urban 37.7(7.5)-68.9(4.1), combined 28.8(9.8)-68.9(4.1). CO2 emissions 230-109 g/km.

* Annual mileage for the New E 220 CDI SE is 10,000 miles. Credit Acceptance Fee payable with first payment. Quotations are based on a 3 year PCP at 10,000 miles per annum. All quotations are subject to approval and vehicles must be ordered between 01.04.2013 and 30.06.2013 and registered before 30.09.2013, subject to availability. Excess mileage charges apply. Amount of dealer deposit allowance dependant on model. All finance examples are 36 months and subject to the acceptance and purchase fees. Finance available from Mercedes-Benz Financial Services UK Ltd, MK15 8BA. Model images shown for demonstration purposes only. Finance subject to status. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Offer is correct at time of going to print May 2013.

On the Road

Peugeot 2008, the new compact crossover, is an exciting addition to the brand line-up

Stunning new 2008

After the 208 next comes the 2008. Peugeot's stunning new compact crossover – making its world debut in road-ready production trim – builds on the success of the popular supermini and was one of the stars of the 2013 Geneva Motor Show.

With its perfect mix of contemporary styling, clean and efficient engines, plus a versatile cabin, it's an exciting addition to the brand's already comprehensive line-up.

The 2008 is the latest expression of Peugeot's renewed brand positioning on its move up market and clearly visible in the 208. The 2008 signals the marque's arrival in a highly competitive sector, pushing customers' expectations to a new level. The car oozes desirability, with an athletic design, engaging driving experience, high levels of comfort and equipment, and outstanding quality in materials and finish.

Further enhancing Peugeot's strategy of boosting its crossover range to attract new customers, the 2008 is a truly global car. It addresses the increasing demands of customers around the world and is the first vehicle produced by the marque which has been designed, developed and engineered simultaneously by employees based in Europe, China and Latin America. Vehicles for Europe will be produced in the factory in Mulhouse, France.

The 2008 brings a new level of innovation to the B-segment by combining the expertise and experience of two acclaimed Peugeot vehicles – the award-winning 3008 and the new 208 supermini.

With a characterful on-the-road presence, the 2008 is intended for young city-dwellers who love the urban environment but also enjoy escaping from it.

In keeping with the dynamism of its profiled silhouette, power comes from the latest generation of low fuel consumption Peugeot engines. With e-HDi diesel and three-cylinder petrol technology, Peugeot's urban cross-over stands out from the competition due to CO2 emissions starting at just 98g/km. Fuel economy can be as high as 61.8mpg.

● There is a preview evening at Telford Motors on May 16 between 5pm-8pm. Test drives are available from June 8.

Giulietta survey results leave Alfa chiefs in seventh heaven

The Alfa Giulietta is one of the best cars in Britain, according to a new survey of UK drivers.

The elegant five-door hatchback has caught the imagination of Britain's motorists with its blend of style, performance and handling, enabling it to achieve a fantastic seventh place in this year's Auto Express Driver Power survey.

The analysis, of more than 45,000 car owners, shows how quickly the Alfa Giulietta has won thousands of UK fans – this is its first time in the Driver Power survey, as it wasn't rated last year. With an excellent total score of 89.1 per cent, the Alfa Giulietta was particularly praised for its performance, braking, ease of driving, ride quality, and in-car technology.

"Has Alfa Romeo finally turned its Driver Power fortunes around?" asks the Auto Express Driver Power team.

"The Giulietta's tech – like the Blue&MeTM system with Bluetooth® and voice controls – is a hit with owners, but this great result is down to its dynamic abilities.

"It's always good to receive recognition such as this one in the Driver Power survey," says Damien Dally, head of brand, Alfa Romeo UK.

"This is especially pleasing because the result comes as a consequence of what Britain's drivers think, and shows the excitement and confidence they have in the Alfa Giulietta.

The Alfa Giulietta 1.4 TB 120bhp Turismo, including Ghiaccio White special paint, is now available with 0 per cent APR Representative and £199 per month. The Giulietta range starts at £17,765 OTR. For more information on the Giulietta visit *www.alfaromeo.co.uk*

The Alfa Giulietta has come from nowehere in last year's Auto Express Drive Power survey to seventh this year

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The official fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km) for the 208 range are: Urban 34.9 – 78.4 (8.1 – 3.6), Extra Urban 62.8 – 88.2 (4.5 – 3.2), Combined 48.7 – 83.0 (5.8 – 3.4) and CO_2 135 – 87.

#Terms and conditions apply, participating dealers only or visit www.peugeot.co.uk.

†The first year Road Fund Licence (RFL) is included in the on the road price. The Dealer will provide customers with a cheque equivalent to twice the current RFL cost. The customer must apply for years 2 & 3 RFL.

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Official Government fuel consumption figures (Range): Urban cycle, Extra urban, Combined (litres per 100km/mpg) & CO_2 emissions (g/km); Highest: New Citroën DS3 Cabrio VTi 120 automatic DStyle 9.6/29.4, 5.3/53.3, 6.9/40.9, 154. Lowest: New Citroën DS3 Cabrio VTi 82 manual DSign 5.8/48.7, 4.3/65.7, 4.9/57.6, 112.

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Georgian gem has been run as successful B&B

A charming six-bedroom Georgian property which has previously been run as a successful bed and breakfast business has come on to the market with Woodhead Estates.

The Mount, 35 Top Street, in the desirable village of Whittington, is priced at £559,950.

Set over four floors, period features include fireplaces and high ceilings.

The entrance hall has solid oak block flooring and a dogleg staircase, access to the cellar and an archway to the dining room which features an inglenook fireplace with a multi-fuel burner.

The drawing room has an open fireplace and exposed beams. There is also a conservatory with double doors to the side garden, while an inner hallway has a further dogleg staircase.

The morning room has an open fireplace and door to the rear patio, the study has quarry tiled flooring and the sitting room has exposed beams. Nearby is the kitchen/breakfast room with a gas cooker and flue for an Ag. A downstairs wc and a utility complete the ground floor.

There are four bedrooms on the first floor, two ensuite, and a bathroom with four-piece suite.

On the second floor are two further bedrooms, both with exposed beams.

The property boasts attractive landscaped gardens of about 1.46 acres. There is a large patio entertainment area to the rear, and a kitchen garden with two greenhouses. The driveway provides ample parking and there is further space available inside a barn. To the side of the house is a range of outbuildings including a workshop, wood shed, garage and garden shed.

For more details call Woodhead Estates on 01691 680044 or visit www.woodheadestates.com

Smart village bungalow offers space and comfort

Number 4 Mineah Drive, Guilsfield is a delightful detached bungalow tucked away in a village cul-de-sac.

The smartly presented three-bedroom property is for sale through Halls at a guide price of £185,000.

It has a kitchen, sitting/dining room, inner lobby with storage, three bedrooms, bathroom with separate wc, gas central heating, double glazing, driveway parking, garage and gardens.

For further information contact 01938 555552 or visit the website www.hallsestateagents.co.uk

Modern semi handily placed in town centre

Number 8 Willow Mews, Oswestry, is a modern semi-detached house in a convenient town centre location.

Built in 2007, the two-bedroom property is for sale through James & Co priced at £115,000.

It has a fitted kitchen, dining and sitting areas, two double bedrooms, bathroom, rear courtyard garden with patio, one off-street parking space to the side, gas central heating and double glazing.

For further information contact James & Co on 01691 657077 or visit www.jamesandcoproperty.co.uk

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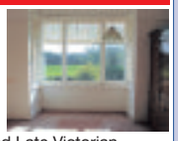
RICS

Queens Road Oswestry £445,000

NEW - NO CHAIN



A rare opportunity to purchase a fine Detached Late Victorian House offering well proportioned accommodation, set in mature gardens and grounds. Situated in what is arguably the most sought after residential location in Oswestry the accommodation briefly comprises: Drawing Room, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Garden Room, Conservatory, Open plan Kitchen and Breakfast Room, Utility Room, Cloakroom, Separate WC, 5 Bedrooms, En-suite to Master Bedroom and Dressing Room to Bedroom 3 and Cellar.

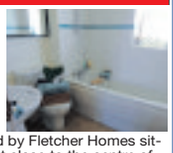
Hengoed Nr Oswestry £435,000

NEW

• A beautifully presented and luxuriously appointed barn conversion having been finished to the highest of standards and sits in landscaped gardens with views over open countryside.
• Farmhouse Kitchen with Oil Fired Aga range, an adjoining Dining Room & Utility. The Drawing room has glazed panels to one elevation with views towards the Welsh border, there is also a smaller Living Room.
• The Master Bedroom on the first floor with a large En-suite and another Guest Bedroom. Three Bedrooms on the ground floor and Family Bathroom
• There is a large well stocked garden to the front, a large gravelled parking area and Double Garage Block. An extensive enclosed Patio area being an ideal outdoor entertainment area with views across open countryside. EPC Rating

Wat's Meadow Gobowen £0

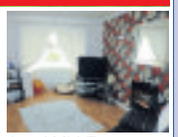
PRICES FROM £139,995



• A mix of 2, 3 and 4 bedroom homes constructed by Fletcher Homes situated on the exclusive Wats Meadow development close to the centre of the popular village of Gobowen and the A5/A483.
• The properties have been constructed to the highest of specification and have the benefit of a 10 Year NHBC Guarantee.
• All properties have a minimum of parking spaces and or garage. Good size rear gardens
• Predicted Energy Assessment B.
• ...SHARED EQUITY PLANS AVAILABLE ON THIS PROPERTY...

Milars Field Morda £134,950

NEW PRICE



• A well positioned and most comfortably appointed Mid-Terrace Residential House, just over five years old and offering generous accommodation on a well planned layout.
• Principally includes: Entrance Hall, Large Sitting Room, Kitchen/Dining Room, Three Excellent Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, En-Suite Shower Room
• Double glazing throughout, Gas central heating, a delightful paved garden and sun patio to the rear, parking for two cars. EPC Rating

Weston Nr Oswestry £425,000

NEW - NO CHAIN

• A rare opportunity to purchase a Grade II Listed Mill which has been sympathetically converted to create a spacious home. The property boasts excellent views over its own Mill Pond and the countryside beyond
• Through careful design and craftsmanship the current owners have created spacious and modern living accommodation which preserves the character of this iconic building and retains a host of original features including a working water wheel and some of the original workings
• Outside the property has picturesque gardens set around the extensive Mill Pond which provides an idyllic backdrop for this stunning property

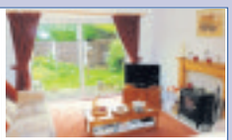
Morda Oswestry £500,000

• A substantial Double fronted Georgian style property retains a host of original features, has been extensively modernised by the current owners to create a spacious family home with flexible living accommodation. Recently fitted Kitchen, Drawing Rm, Study, Sun Rm, Utility Room, Cellars. 4 large Bedrooms, Family Bathrm & Separate Shower Rm
• Substantial stone/brick built outbuildings which could be used for a host of future uses including conversion to additional living accommodation or a separate annex (subject to planning consents). Further brick built Building is currently used as a large Games Rm
• The property stands in an elevated position overlooking landscaped gardens with views towards the Welsh Border, large patio, extends to approx 0.72 acre (0.29 ha). EPC Rating F

NEW - NO CHAIN

Vyrnwy Road Oswestry £119,950

• A well appointed Two Bedroom Semi-Detached Bungalow situated close to the town centre of Oswestry with a good size terraced garden to the rear
• The property has been maintained to the highest of standards. Entrance Hall, Fully Fitted Kitchen (with appliances where stated), Lounge, Conservatory
• Two Bedrooms, Shower Room. The property also benefits from uPVC double glazing, Gas C/H together with a tarmac driveway and carport. The property is also on the local town service bus route. EPC Rating



Buckingham Close Oswestry £167,500

• A most spacious and comfortably appointed Detached Bungalow
• Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Large Sitting/Dining Room
• Kitchen with modern fitments, a Large Glazed Utility/Rear Lobby
• Two Excellent Bedrooms, Family Bathroom. D/G, Gas C/H
• Single garage, parking and lawned gardens to the fore
• A delightful & enclosed lawned and kitchen garden to rear

NO CHAIN

Coed-Y-Go Oswestry £250,000

• A most delightfully position Detached Residential Bungalow in need of modernisation, set within large gardens and grounds just on the edge of Morda towards Coed-y-Go being only one mile from Oswestry.
• The generous property includes which requires some modernisation, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Sun Room, Kitchen, Rear Lobby/Utility together with Three Bedrooms and Shower Room.
• Oil fired Central Heating, garage, a Triple Loose Box with adjoining Garage, Small Paddock. Views over open fields to the rear. EPC Rating F

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CHRONICLE BUSINESS CLUB AWARDS 2013

Online retailer wins top prize

by Graham Breeze

FAMILY run on-line retailer The Gift Experience has been named the Oswestry area's top business.

The Ellesmere based company was named Business Of The Year 2013 at the Oswestry & Border Chronicle Business Awards glittering presentation night held in conjunction with Oswestry Chamber of Commerce and hosted by The Lion Quays Waterside Resort.

The company walked away with the top award, knocking back stiff competition from shortlisted firms Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors and Applewood Wealth Management.

It was one of two awards for the firm, which also won the Best Online Business category, sponsored by Morris Cook, ahead of GWR Fasteners of Oswestry and Siop Cwlwm of Oswestry.

In the Company of the Year award, judges were on the lookout for an established, successful business which demonstrated best practice and showcased success, and were hard pushed to select a winner in the closely fought category.

Established in October 2003 The Gift Experience is a family run business, offering quality gifts for every occasion conceivable with a great emphasis on Customer Service.

Exciting

"In today's modern society trying to find a special gift can be a time consuming, tiring exercise and therefore The Gift Experience provides you with the opportunity to choose that special gift from the comfort of your own chair," said Jenny Tervin, who runs the business alongside husband Trevor..

"The Gift Experience is always on the lookout for new and exciting products and always welcomes ideas from our customers or prospective customers. We are great believers in good customer service and deal with everything with a smile on our face and a spring in our step."

Carl Jones, who compered the event, told the crowd: "Tonight is a night for celebration, a platform to showcase the best businesses that the area has to offer.

"It's a reminder that, amidst all the talk of recession and stagnation in the economy, determination and innovation are thriving.

"There are many, many businesses in our area who are not only surviving in the current economic climate, but positively flourishing, and we have heard about 20 organisations which have made it through to the finals, and crowned nine winners.

"Not everyone walked away with a trophy, but making it onto the shortlist in the face of such tough competition is no mean achievement in itself."

Business of the Year, The Gift Experience.of Ellesmere receive their award from Phil Inman, managing director of Midland News Association, parent company of the Oswestry Chronicle. Left to right: Trevor Pervin, Jenny Pervin, Phil Inman), Holly Liversage, Steve Yates and Katy Yates.

CHRONICLE BUSINESS CLUB AWARDS 2013

Awards celebrate the best businesses from the area

From left Libby Manning, Paul Manning, Gemma Manning-Bentley and Hollie Manning.

Best Small Business winners Elegant Finishing Touches. From left Oliver Gwilliam, Ian Glennister of Lanyon Bowdler (presenting the award), Jo Sudlow, Harriet Byrne and Keith Sudlow.

Suzanne Williams and Steve Draper from the Lion Quays Waterside Resort.

The Oswestry and Border Chronicle team, from left, Christina Cookson, Marcus Evans, Bev Thompson, Dave Lee-Birch, Sheilagh Lewis, associate editor Graham Breeze and editor Caroline Jones.

by Graham Breeze

VENUE dressing service Elegant Finishing Touches scooped the Best Small Business Award sponsored by Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors at the Oswestry & Border Chronicle Business Awards.

Elegant Finishing Touches of Oswestry offer a wide range of services, including wedding and event planning.

The company's chair cover hire and chair sash hire for weddings and special events is focused on providing a high quality service and were used at the awards ceremony venue at the Lion Quays Waterside Resort.

The company provide bespoke chair cover and sash hire to all venue locations throughout Shropshire, Cheshire and across the UK, and can offer either a set-up service or delivery and collection service.

Photo booth hire, chocolate fountains and popcorn machine hire are also features offered by the company.

Elegant Finishing Touches beat off competition from GWR Fasteners and Stonehouse Brewery to lift the award.

Other winners on the night included GWR Fasteners Ltd of Oswestry, which nicked in ahead of Elegant Finishing Touches and Purebeauty Ltd from Welshpool in the Young Business of the Year category, sponsored by Turner Peachey. The customer service award, sponsored by Aubrey Kirkham Funeral Directors, went to BBR Opticians, which beat off competition from Agritel Ltd of Oswestry, and Stonehouse Brewery Ltd, also in Oswestry.

The Innovation category was landed by Derwas of Welshpool, and the Young Business Entrepreneur, sponsored by the Charlotte Hartey Foundation, went to Gemma Manning-Bentley of Gemmipop Designs in Oswestry.

The British Ironwork Centre in Oswestry and Booka Bookshop landed the Community Champion category sponsored by Lion Quays and the Independent Retailer of the Year Award - sponsored by Oswestry Chamber of Commerce - respectively.

CHRONICLE BUSINESS CLUB AWARDS 2013

Chronicle's business winners announced at glitzy ceremony

Phil Inman, left, managing director of Midland News Association and Tristan Hartey of The Charlotte Hartey Foundation.

Martin Anderson, outgoing chairman of Oswestry & Border Chamber of Commerce, receives a special award from Oswestry and Border Chronicle associate editor Graham Breeze.

by Graham Breeze

THE BIG night finally arrived last week when the best of the area's businesses found out who had won the major honours in the Oswestry & Border Chronicle Business Awards for 2013.

The event was held by the Chronicle in association with Oswestry Chamber of Commerce and was hosted by The Lion Quays Resort on May 1.

The Chronicle brought together businesses from Oswestry, Welshpool and the surrounding towns and villages to showcase all that is good about the region.

The newspaper teamed up with the resort and the chamber to celebrate the rich resource of skills and people who thrive and prosper in today's challenging marketplace.

Over 220 guests sat down to dinner after hearing the guest speaker Carl Hartey of the Charlotte Hartey Foundation outline the aims of the trust set up in memory of his late sister.

Graham Breeze, The Chronicle's associate editor, said he was delighted that the resort had agreed to host the event and that the Chamber of Commerce was involved for the second year running.

"The Chronicle celebrated its second birthday in March and this partnership has emphasised the regard in which the newspaper is held by the business community," he said.

"You have taken us to your hearts and our standing is reflected in the fantastic number of entries we received from the business community for our awards scheme.

Compere Carl Jones.

Jools Payne, Heather Noble and Gemma Syrett-Judd of Oswestry Chamber of Commerce.

"The economic climate may not be good but many businesses in our circulation area are thriving through innovation and determination and many have outstanding success stories to tell.

"Our gratitude goes to the owners and staff at the fabulous Lion Quays Resort for agreeing to host the annual awards ceremony again. We are delighted to be partnering with the Chamber of Commerce and the resort," he said.

Sponsors

"We are also indebted to our sponsors, Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors, The Lion Quays, Turner Peachey Accountants, The Pickstock Group, The Charlotte Hartey Foundation, Oswestry, Chamber of Commerce, Aubrey Kirkham Funeral Directors and Morris Cook Chartered Accountants."

Mr Breeze marked the departure of Martin Anderson as chairman of the Chamber of Commerce by presenting him with a cut glass decanter saying that without Mr Anderson's backing the business awards could not have gone ahead.

CHRONICLE BUSINESS CLUB AWARDS 2013

Staff from event sponsors The Pickstock Group and guests.

Staff from event sponsors Lanyon Bowdler and guests.

Staff from Turner Peachey Accountants, sponsors of the event.

Staff from event sponsors Aubrey Kirkham Funeral Directors and guests.

Staff from event sponsors Morris Cook Accountants.

Members of Oswestry Chamber of Commerce which also sponsored the event.

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CHRONICLE BUSINESS CLUB AWARDS 2013

Young Business of the Year GWR Fasteners. From left to right, Jacqui Reynolds, Jude Robinson, John Ollier (of Turner Peachey, presenting), Gary Robinson and Griff Griffiths.

Customer Service award winners BBR Opticians. From left to right, Kelly Leighton, Ruth Grellier, Aubrey Kirkham (of Aubrey Kirkham Funeral Directors, presenting) and Helen Tudor.

Community Champion award winners – British Ironwork Centre. From left, Ben Knowles, Lyn Pearson (of The Lion Quays, presenting), Tracy Knowles, Clive Knowles.

Young business entrepreneur Gemma Manning-Bentley pictured with Tristan Hartey, of The Charlotte Hartey Foundation.

Best Online Business – The Gift Experience. From left, Robyn Willey, Trevor Pervin, Jenny Pervin, Andrew Cooke (of Morris Cook, presenting), Steve Yates and Katy Yates.

Innovation award winners – Derwas of Welshpool. From left, Craig Leek, Matthew Jones, Kevin Arthur (of The Pickstock Group, presenting), Kaye Derwas, Lorne Fenna and Tony Jones.

Independent retailer of the year – Booka Bookshop, From left are Jess Williams, Tim Morris, Heather Noble (of Oswestry Chamber of Commerce, presenting), Carrie Morris, Louisa Jones and Rosie Evans.

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CHRONICLE BUSINESS CLUB AWARDS 2013

Moving talk on foundation's work

The Midland News Association table.

Tristan Hartey of the Charlotte Hartey Foundation.

The Charlotte Hartey Foundation table.

TRISTAN Hartey, from the Charlotte Hartey Foundation, spoke movingly about the work of the foundation at the Oswestry & Border Chronicle Awards dinner.

The Foundation was set up by Charlotte's family in her memory following her death at the age of 16 in 2009, after complications arose when she was misdiagnosed with swine flu. Now, the foundation gives money to youth clubs, schools and organisations and funds projects and ventures aimed at giving young people the chance to reach their full potential.

Mr Hartey, Charlotte's brother, explained its role in local society and said the group welcomed donations from companies and individuals.

"The registered foundation provides local financial resources in the form of gifts to youth clubs, schools and organisations and it funds structured, purposeful projects and ventures, giving youths the opportunity of reaching their full potential," he said.

The Foundation also manages a business development programme which provides funds and support to help young people.

"If you have a business idea, and are aged 16–25, the programme could be for you," he said.

The scheme helps young people who need it most when starting up a business, helping develop key skills, confidence and motivation and enabling them to fulfil business dreams and potential.

The scheme helps young people to work out if business ideas are viable, and if it is, it can offer financial support.

Applications for start-up funding are assessed in relation to a number of factors including perceived risk, business viability and individual need.

The Charlotte Hartey Foundation is supported wholly by generous public donations and fund raising activities.

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Oswestry Chamber of Commerce is once again delighted to have sponsored the Chronicle Business Awards.

It's an excellent platform to celebrate the great business achievements right on our doorstep.

Congratulations to everyone!

www.oswestrychamber.org.uk

CHRONICLE BUSINESS CLUB AWARDS 2013

Pictured, from left, are Tim Morris, Jess Williams, Louisa Jones, Rosie Evans and Carrie Morris.

Guests enjoy the atmosphere at the awards.

From left, Marcus Evans, Beverley Thompson, Carl Jones, Trish Penny and Dave Lee-Birch..

Left to right, Clive Knowles, Tracy Knowles, Sophia Knowles, Ben Knowles and Jenny Singleton of the British Ironworks Centre.

Pictured, from left to right, are Graham Clifford, Louise Burns, Edward Graham and Peter Guy.

From left to right are Simon Cooper, Jacqui Cooper, Gary Robinson and Jude Robinson.

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Winners of the Chronicle Business Award for Best Customer Service

CHRONICLE BUSINESS CLUB AWARDS 2013

Left to right, Aubrey Kirkham, Leanne Kirkham-Garvey and Iain Mackinnon.

Chronicle associate editor Graham Breeze.

Left to right, Harriet Byrne, Oliver Gwilliam, Keith Sudlow, Jo Sudlow and Lyn Pearson.

Left to right, Becca Marsh, Lisa Stanley, Gill Cowling and Paul Seager.

The room all set for the big night.

Left to right, Peter Guy, Lyn Pearson, Carl Jones and Aubrey Kirkham.

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CHRONICLE BUSINESS CLUB
AWARDS 2013

Halls 1845

This charming village cottage which dates back to 1650 offers charm and character in each room.

- 3 Double Bedrooms
- 2 Receptions & Superb Dining Kitchen
- South Facing Cottage Gardens
- Garage & Parking
- Popular Village Location
- Current EPC Rating F

Old Bradford Cottage, Knockin

Price: £274,950 Contact Oswestry

An enchanting, light filled family home, The Dingle enjoys a stunning location approached on a very quiet country lane with easy access to main roads.

- Standing In Approx 5.6 Acres
- South Facing Aspect
- Workshops / Garages, Studio (Annex Potential)
- Stable & Tractor Shed
- Eco Friendly Heating & Electricity Systems
- Current EPC Rating D

The Dingle, Llanymynech

Price: £499,950 Contact Oswestry

This three bedroom detached bungalow sits centrally in a generous size plot with large conservatory, workshops, ample parking and mature gardens.

- 3 Bedroom & Attic Room
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Workshops, External Office & Stores
- Mature Gardens
- Current EPC Rating

School Lane, St Martins

Price: Offers Invited £270,000 Contact Oswestry

A three bedroom semi detached family home which has been excellently maintained and is situated on a corner plot with large side garden, garage, two reception rooms and three bedrooms.

- 3 Bedroom
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Gas CH & UPVC DG
- Garage & Parking
- Corner Plot

Whitefriars, Oswestry

Price: £149,950 Contact Oswestry

A four bedroom detached family home offering adaptable and versatile accommodation set in 1.670 acres and located down a quiet country lane

- 4 Bed Property
- Annex Or Holiday Let Potential
- Brook, Woodland & Pasture
- Range Of Outbuildings
- Viewing Recommended
- Current EPC Rating D

White House, Kinnerley

Price: £399,950 Contact Oswestry

An immaculate executive style family home overlooking parkland situated in a quiet residential area. This property is in excellent decorative order throughout and has been improved by the current owners to provide a most comfortable family home.

- 4 Bedroom (Master & En-Suite
- 3 Reception Rooms
- Double Garage & Parking
- Gardens & Summer House
- NHBC Guarantee
- Current EPC Rating C

Kingfisher Way, Morda

Price: £299,950 Contact Oswestry

A wonderful opportunity to purchase a former farmhouse and two cottages providing potential for rental accommodation income if required or could be incorporated into the farmhouse

- 3 Bed Former Farmhouse
- 2 One Bed Cottages
- Oil Central Heating
- Character Features
- Picturesque Rural Location

Cefn Y Coed, Deytheur

Price: £375,000 Contact Oswestry

A well appointed two bedroom semi detached home situated in a courtyard location in this popular residential area of town.

- 2 Bedroom
- Conservatory
- Courtyard Location
- Garden
- Parking

Cabin Lane, Oswestry

Price: £119,950 Contact Oswestry

A second floor one bedroom retirement apartment situated within a complex with Resident House Manager situated within easy level walking distance of the town centre.

- 1 Bed Apartment
- Located On Second Floor
- Walking Distance To Town
- Communal Gardens & Parking
- Communal Lounge

Abraham Court, Oswestry

Price: £74,995 Contact Oswestry

This three bedroom detached family home is situated on a corner plot and benefits from conservatory, master bedroom en-suite, two reception rooms, garage and parking.

- 3 Bedroom (Master & En-Suite)
- 2 Receptions & Conservatory
- Oil CH & UPVC DG
- Garage & Parking
- Gardens To Front, Side & Rear

Bishops Close, West Felton

Contact Oswestry

A second floor apartment offering light and bright accommodation located a short walk from Oswestry Town Centre.

- 2 Bedroom (Master & En-Suite)
- Open Plan Living / Dining / kitchen
- Balcony
- Floor To Ceiling Windows In Part
- Contemporary Accommodation
- Current EPC Rating B

The Carriages, Oswestry

Price: £119,950 Contact Oswestry

Situated within an exclusive development in a most popular village location, this executive four double bedroom family home must be viewed to be appreciated.

- 4 Double Beds (2 & En-Suites)
- Double Garage & Parking
- Gardens To Front, Side & Rear
- Exclusive Development
- Viewing Recommended
- Current EPC Rating D

Felton Park, West Felton

Price: £450,000 Contact Oswestry

Dating back to 1900 with a later addition a detached country cottage situated adjacent to the River Morda with countryside views to the side elevation.

- 3 Bed Detached Cottage
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Private Gardens & Ample Parking
- Adjacent To River Morda
- Countryside Views
- Current EPC Rating F

Brook House, Oswestry

Price: £169,950 Contact Oswestry

A lovely detached three bedroom bungalow with South facing gardens situated in a popular residential area.

- 3 Bedroom
- 2 Receptions & Sun Room / Conservatory
- Double Garage & Parking
- Gardens, Summer House & Greenhouse
- Gas CH & UPVC DG
- Current EPC Rating D

Cae-Twm, Old Chirk Road, Gobowen

Price: £224,950 Contact Oswestry

A charming, distinctive and unique detached cottage offering immaculately presented accommodation benefiting from panoramic views of the Tanat Valley and surrounding countryside.

- 2/3 Bedroom (Master & En-Suite)
- Workshop, Car Port & Parking
- Unspoilt Picturesque Location
- Positioned On A Quiet Country Lane
- Superb Gardens
- Current EPC Rating F

Castell Cottage, Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant

Price: £234,950 Contact Oswestry

A fine example of an early Victorian family home with Georgian influences. This property boasts charm and sophistication in each room with retaining original features complimented by tasteful decor.

- 6 Bedroom
- 3 Receptions & Conservatory
- Double Garage & Parking
- Sits In Approx One Acre
- Stable Block

The Old Vicarage, Kinnerley

Price: £675,000 Contact Oswestry

Dating back to 1860 this DETACHED family home offers spacious accommodation.

- 4 Bedrooms
- 3 Reception Rooms
- Countryside Walks
- Oil Central Heating
- Character Features
- Current EPC Rating

Peach Tree House, Monfa, Llansilin

Price: £179,950 Contact Oswestry

This extended detached family home offers spacious and adaptable accommodation which is warmed by gas fired central heating and the property benefits from double glazing.

- 4/5 Bedroom (Potential Annex)
- 3 Reception Rooms
- Gardens
- Parking
- Gas CH & DG
- Current EPC Rating D

Balmoral Crescent, Oswestry

Price: £210,000 Contact Oswestry

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Bishops Castle	01588 638755	Ellesmere	01691 622602	Oswestry	01691 670320
Kidderminster	01562 820880	Welshpool	01938 555552	Whitchurch	01948 663230

Associated Office at Worcester 01905 611066

rightmove.co.uk

www.hallsgb.com

Period residence includes outbuildings and large garden

A substantial double fronted Georgian style home, Weston House, Morda, near Oswestry, has been extensively modernised while still retaining original features.
It is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £500,000.
Accommodation comprises a new kitchen, drawing room, study, sun room, utility, cellars, four large bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, outbuildings with conversion potential, games room (possible home office) and landscaped gardens extending to 0.72 of an acre.

For further information contact Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367 or visit www.bowensonandwatson.co.uk

Bowen Son and Watson

End of terrace cottage in lovely position overlooking river

Minffordd, Llanarmon Road, Glyn Ceiriog is a charming end of terrace cottage on the edge of the village overlooking the river and Ceiriog Valley.
The two-bedroom property is for sale through Town & Country at a guide price of £124,950.
Accommodation comprises a lounge with inglenook fireplace housing a log burner, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom and basement room. The garden to the rear is a particular feature and is of a good size, bordering the river.

For details call Town & Country on 01691 679631 or visit www.townandcountryoswestry.com

TOWN & COUNTRY
Tel 01691 679631

Rural retreat on village outskirts offers far-reaching views

On the fringe of a charming village, Cil Gwyn, Llwynmawr, Llangollen is a delightful detached country cottage with beautiful countryside views.
On the market for offers in the region of £199,995, it has an entrance hall, kitchen/breakfast room, sun room/dining room, lounge, three bedrooms, bathroom, oil-fired central heating, hard-wood double glazing, gardens, two garages and a driveway.

For further information contact Samuel Wood on 01691 659951 or visit www.samuelwood.co.uk

SAMUEL WOOD & COMPANY

Three-bedroom bungalow looks towards Rodney's Pillar

Having far-reaching rooftop views to the rear towards Rodneys Pillar, 14 Hillside, Pant, is a delightfully located three-bedroom bungalow. With double glazing and oil central heating it is on the market for offers around £185,000. It has a reception hall, large living room/dining room, very large conservatory, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom with wc, front garden, driveway parking, garage and a very good sized rear garden. The property also has access via an adjacent bridle path to a nature reserve.

For further information contact Parry Lowarch on 01743 343343 or visit www.parrylowarch.co.uk

Parry Lowarch

Craig is appointed Arthurs sales manager

Craig Huxley, 46, well known to many customers of award-winning Arthurs Vauxhall of Oswestry, has been appointed as its new sales manager.

He first started with Arthurs in 1988 and since that time has occupied a number of positions within the company.

He has experience of service, after-sales and sales during his lengthy motor industry career.

Craig said: "I am pleased to be given this opportunity at an extremely exciting time in the progression of Arthurs Vauxhall. I shall look forward to continuing to serve existing and new customers and at the same time helping management take the company forward in the next few years.

"My main focus is – and in fact has always been – customer satisfaction.

"Having worked with managing director Nigel Williams for many years, I know how highly he values these customer satisfaction ideals."

Craig, who lives locally, is married to Gina and the couple have daughters Alice, 14, and Melissa, nine.

Nigel said: "Wherever possible I like to promote from within and Craig has thoroughly earned his promotion."

Dealership wins trophy for market leadership

A Shropshire and Mid Wales dealership has been awarded a 'number one' trophy for their market leadership results in new car sales.

Nigel Williams, managing director of award-winning Vauxhall dealer Arthurs of Oswestry and Newtown, has put the success down to the 'exceptional' performance of the sales teams at both branches.

Tremendous

He said today: "I am delighted with the tremendous efforts put in by the sales teams at Oswestry and Newtown who have once again done Arthurs extremely proud. This is yet another successive year in which we have been market leader across the Oswestry and Mid Wales area.

"It is particularly pleasing to receive this award for new car sales as the Network Q used car sales during 2012 were also at record levels at both branches.

"At Newtown there was also a record level of new and used commercial vehicle sales. General sales manager Steve Hughes has been particularly pro-active in marketing and selling commercial vehicles.

Oswestry sales manager Craig Huxley proudly holds the No 1 trophy

"As a result, we shall shortly be purchasing a batch of nearly new commercial vehicles which are due to arrive in Newtown in the next four weeks. They are predominantly Vauxhall commercials, but there will be other makes of vans on offer as well."

In addition to record volumes of new and Network Q used car sales, he also commented on the continuing high level of dealership customer satisfaction – a feature of the business that pleases him enormously.

Nigel said: "The company is maintaining its long-standing tradition as one of the top performers for customer satisfaction, not only within our marketing area, but throughout the country.

Focus

"We would like to have the relentless focus on delivering high customer satisfaction levels combined with offering competitive deals on new and used cars. This will help to put us in good stead for the future and allow us to continue to grow the company in what is generally regarded as a very challenging economic environment."

Looking to the future, he said the Arthurs Vauxhall strategy at Oswestry and Newtown was to even further improve customer satisfaction levels and at the same time grow new and Network Q car sales by 'being professional and offering excellent deals.'

Sales executive Chris Venables with the VXR8

Special for sale

A very rare vehicle is how Arthurs of Newtown describes a Vauxhall VXR8 6.2i automatic with 430PS, which is for sale at its Pool Road dealership in Newtown.

The award-winning Vauxhall dealer is asking less than £20,000 for the VXR8, registered in 2009 with a mileage of 35,000 miles.

The very powerful, rear-wheel drive petrol car is in black metallic paint, has an anti-lock brake system, immobiliser, reverse parking aid, alarm and reach-and-rake adjustable steering column.

It has a full leather interior, eight-way electrically adjustable front sports seats which are heated, driver and passenger airbags and side airbags. There is a lumber adjustment for the front seats, front head restraints and rear headrests.

Remote audio controls are on the leather sports steering wheel, there's a service interval indicator, dual-zone electronic climate control and variable power assisted steering, radio/CD as well as Bluetooth hands-free telephone kit.

Arthurs invites potential customers for this very rare vehicle to contact the dealership on 01686 625422.

Arthurs

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01691 652235

Smithfield Garage
Newtown
SY16 1DW
01686 625422

www.arthurscars.co.uk

VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Cascada Elite 1.4i 16v VVT Turbo (140PS) Start/Stop: Urban: 35.8 (7.9), Extra-urban: 51.4 (5.5), Combined: 44.8 (6.3). CO_2 emissions 149g/km.

Model shown Cascada Elite 1.4i 16v VVT Turbo (140PS) Start/Stop £26,100 with 20" Alloy Wheels £1,000, Two-coat Pearlescent Paint £525, Front Parking Distance Sensors £385, Premium Forward Lighting Pack £790, Premium Leather Pack £1,200. Total OTR cost £30,000. Prices and specifications correct at time of going to print. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. Visit www.vauxhall.co.uk/warranty

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On the Road

The sporty Peugeot 208 GTi with its 197bhp engine is just one of three new models from Peugeot

Trio of new releases

The motor industry is always changing and ever evolving, and Peugeot is definitely no exception to this rule with three new models released over the 2013 spring/summer period, giving customers even more choice when it comes to choosing the perfect summer ride.

Last month saw the successful launch of two new Peugeot 208 models, the 208 GTi and the 208XY. The GTi boasts a 1.6-litre turbocharged engine giving 197bhp, which make swift work of 0-62mph, in just 6.8 seconds.

Chris Symonds, general sales leader at Budgen Motors in Shrewsbury, said: "The 208 GTi is the hot hatch that everyone has been waiting for since the iconic 205 GTi, which has proven to be one of the best-loved and most successful hatchbacks of all time.

"Being able to showcase this breathtaking new model to our customers has been great fun."

Since its launch the 208 GTi has not disappointed, capturing the imagination and eye of both customers and staff alike.

If you want the GTi's styling but prefer your car to be plush rather than racy, then look no further than the 208XY. With the panoramic glass roof, built in satnav/multifunction colour touchscreen, electric folding door mirrors and rear parking aid as standard, the XY is the ultimate in hot-hatch luxury.

Affordable

In contrast to the 197bhp GTi, the XY comes with a variety of engines, including the 1.6 e-HD and a 118bhp 1.6-litre VTi petrol. The XY is now also available on the highly successful 'Just Add Fuel' scheme, making it the hassle free and affordable way to drive away in a new 208XY.

If you fancy something like the 208 . . . only bigger, then worry not. Summer 2013 sees the hotly anticipated launch of the Peugeot 2008 crossover. This clever car is marginally longer with a larger boot and sits slightly higher on its suspension for a superior view of the road and better ground clearance.

Running largely the same range of petrol and diesel engines as the similarly styled 208 hatch, the 2008 should return up to 62mpg with 98g/km CO2. With its perfect mix of contemporary styling, clean and efficient engines, plus a versatile cabin, it's an exciting addition to the Peugeot line-up.

Customers are invited to an appointment-only preview of the car, where the dealership will showcase the 2008, alongside the new 208 GTi. Bookings for test drives will also be taken during the event.

To book a guaranteed slot for the 2008 preview event, for more information or for details on any of the models in the Peugeot range, please contact Chris Symonds at Budgen Motors on 01743 452 888 or email chris.symonds@budgenmotors.co.uk. Alternatively visit the dealership on Featherbed Lane, Shrewsbury or see http://www.budgenmotorcars.co.uk/

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The official fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km) for the 208 range are: Urban 34.9 – 78.4 (8.1 – 3.6), Extra Urban 62.8 – 88.2 (4.5 – 3.2), Combined 48.7 – 83.0 (5.8 – 3.4) and CO_2 135 – 87.
*Terms and conditions apply, participating dealers only or visit www.peugeot.co.uk. *The first year Road Fund Licence (RFL) is included in the on the road price. The Dealer will provide customers with a cheque equivalent to twice the current RFL cost. The customer must apply for years 2 & 3 RFL. Just Add Fuel (JAF) is subject to status. *Minimum age 21, 25 or 30 on selected models, maximum age 75. Policyholder must have a minimum of 2 years NCD to use on the vehicle. All drivers must meet eligibility criteria including minimum 2 years' full UK licence, driving convictions/claims limits. Excesses apply. 3 years motor insurance is provided and underwritten by U K Insurance Limited, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. A guarantee may be required. Written quotations available from Peugeot Financial Services, Quadrant House, Princess Way, Redhill, RH1 1QA. JAF is incorporated into a Personal Lease contract. 208 Access 1.0 VTi 68 3dr initial rental £2,000, optional final rental £4,510, 35 monthly rentals. If you choose to pay off the optional final rental, you can pay an annual rental equivalent to one of your monthly rentals but will not own the car. Ownership is possible with JAF Passport, ask your Dealer for details. Rentals quoted for a typical customer & will vary according to age, post code and annual mileage. Excess mileage charges may apply. Routine servicing included only. Excludes wear parts. This offer is not available in N I. Offer available on cars ordered and registered by 30th June 2013. Calls may be recorded for training purposes.

Great little number has grown in stature

By Sharon Walters

Only the Italians could do it. The Germans, Swedes, Koreans, Japanese, Americans et al, would never dream of it. A bottle holder would be as far as manufacturers from these countries would go. So what is Fiat offering on its latest car to hit our roads?

An espresso coffee maker as an option on the Fiat 500L – and not just any espresso maker but one of the most stylish brand – a Lavazza. Well what do you expect from a company that comes from one of the most stylish countries in the world?

No more queuing for indifferent coffee at the motorway services – park up, switch on the machine and a few minutes later, hey presto.

And it is a logical step for Fiat to take when you consider that many people will opt for the car because of its looks and how it stands out from others in the sector.

But back to more serious things.

This is the 500 gone big. For those who loved the retro-style while young, free and single but now need something a little bigger. Perhaps because they've settled down and started a family or just because they want to make a statement with a little flair. And it has bags of that.

The 500L is a practical family car for those that need more than the cute but small 500 with its three-door body. And it isn't just a smidge bigger, it's a lot bigger – 60cm longer than the 500, 18cm taller and it has a 31cm longer wheelbase. And plans for the 500 range don't end here – there's also an SUV type version to follow along with a seven-seat model.

The Fiat 500L is a practical family car, with other versions set to follow later in the year

Inside the Fiat 500L, which has its own Lavazza espresso coffee maker

Fiat 500L claims to combine practicality and internal flexibility and indeed it does. A 'cab forward' design frees up passenger space and it can easily accommodate five passengers and more importantly their five suitcases, although it has to be said not cases large enough for a month away. The 400-litre boot is adjustable on three levels, while the 60:40 split-fold rear seats slide back and forward adding to the practicality.

You get a real feeling of space inside thanks to deep-all-round windows which also give driver and passengers great visibility. And the interior layout and finish is very well put together showing yet more Italian flair.

There are three trim levels – Pop Star, Easy and Lounge – and there are so many combinations to personalise and customise the car just for you.

Easy and Popstar models cost the same, with different trim treatments to tell them apart. The Easy and Lounge models have fabric or suede dashboard finishes which could be the only let-down on the style front. On the Pop Star there is a touch of showbiz with dash panels in the same paint colour as the outside of the car.

Every model of the 500L has cruise control, air conditioning and five-inch touchscreen radio. The Pop Star gets alloy wheels while the Easy drops those and instead gets rear electric windows and rear parking sensors. The top Lounge model comes as standard with a glass sunroof, automatic climate control, automatic wipers and lights.

Two petrol and two diesel engines are offered: A 1.4 litre Fire petrol and the 875cc TwinAir Turbo plus the 1.3 and 1.6 litre Multijet 2 turbo diesels.

Prices start at £14,990 up to £18,890.

● The 500L is available on the Motability scheme. T J Vickers has fully trained Motability specialists who are able to guide you through each step of the process required to ensure that all your requirements are met. Please telephone or call in for further details: Shrewsbury branch on 01743 537099 or the Telford branch on 01952 371055

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FIAT

On the Road

Thousands of customers placed an order when prices were announced

A big demand for new Ford Fiesta ST

The new Ford Fiesta ST is just now reaching dealer showrooms, but since prices were announced at the end of January, over 1,000 customers have already placed an order.

Priced from just £16,995 – up to £2,000 less than segment competitors – and receiving praise for its engaging and entertaining drive, the Fiesta ST is already in strong demand at the head of the new Ford Fiesta range.

Mark Ovenden, Ford Britain managing director, said: "Our Fiesta ST offers the winning combination of accessible pricing, exhilarating performance and outstanding economy. Expert commentators have described the car as sensational, praising its agility, responsiveness and addictive fun – yet with everyday practicality. The rush of early orders proves our customers agree with this assessment too."

Over 90 per cent of customers have opted for the Fiesta ST2, which adds partial leather Recaro seats, Sony DAB radio, EATC, Ford keyless start, privacy glass and LED daytime running lamps to the standard specification of 17in alloy wheels, ST front fog lights, DAB radio, SYNC connectivity, Thatcham CAT 1 alarm, Recaro seats and My Key.

Technology-rich

The same is true for Focus ST which has seen the majority of customers opting for the highly specified, technology-rich models. Over three in five new medium hot hatches in the UK is a Focus ST, with sales to date exceeding 3,000, outselling the VW Golf GTi more than two to one.

Available in Ford dealerships now, the Fiesta ST and Focus ST are priced from £16,995 and £21,995 respectively on-the-road.

Executive range gets an upgrade

Ford has announced upgraded versions of its acclaimed Mondeo executive car range, including a new series specified for both private and business customers.

The new Ford Mondeo Graphite offers retail buyers a compelling combination of exterior appeal and excellent interior features, with prices from £15,995.

Following the success of the Ford Mondeo Zetec Business Edition, the new Titanium X Business Edition offers even higher standards of technology and interior luxury, which have helped to secure residual values five percentage points higher than the outgoing Mondeo Titanium X, despite prices being £1,500 lower on the new model.

Reduction

Ford Mondeo models equipped with the reputed 2.0-litre Duratorq TDCi diesel engine – available across all series (except Titanium X Sport) – offer CO2 emissions from just 119g/km across both 140PS and 163PS power outputs, a reduction of up to 10g/km, with the 163PS version offering more power than Mondeo's comparable rivals. Fuel consumption is improved from 57.6mpg to 61.4mpg.

"This upgrade offers Ford Mondeo customers more features, at a more competitive price, as well as outstanding fuel economy," said Mark Ovenden, Ford Britain managing director.

"This winning formula has always played a key role in Mondeo's success and these significant range enhancements will grow its popularity among UK families."

Ford refined the calibration of the Mondeo's 2.0-litre Duratorq diesel engine and optimised aerodynamics to achieve 119g/km targeted CO2 emissions from the five-door version and 120g/km from the estate. These lower CO2 levels qualify for annual road tax (VED) of £30, down from £105.

"Our engineers worked hard to deliver a leading combination of power and low CO2 emissions that offers customers great real-world fuel efficiency – and Mondeo's famous driving quality," said Barb Samardzich, Ford Europe product development vice-president.

Throughout the Mondeo's 20-year history it has attracted recognition for its leading green technologies and credentials as a business and family car. Most recently this has included:

- What Car? Awards: best family and estate car in 2013, 2012 and 2011.
- What Car? Green Awards: best family car in 2012 and 2011.
- Carbuyer.co.uk: best large family car 2012.

The Ford Mondeo also provides customers with a wide array of sophisticated features including Adaptive Cruise Control, Forward Alert, Blind Spot Information System, Lane Departure Warning, Adaptive Front Lighting System, Hill Launch Assist and Auto High Beam technology.

The Ford Mondeo executive range has been upgraded. Pictured: The Graphite

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Motability

Awards 2012 Which? Best Car Manufacturer

The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the range of Kia models shown are: Urban 33.6 (8.4) – 80.7 (3.5), Extra Urban 53.3 (5.3) – 94.2 (3.0), Combined 44.1 (6.4) – 88.3 (3.2). CO_2 emissions are 150 – 85g/km.

7 year /100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. For terms and exclusions visit kia.co.uk or see your local dealer. Price, Reevoo score and number of reviews correct at time of going to press and specification is subject to change without notice. Models shown: Picanto 'City' 1.0 @ £8,995 On The Road (OTR), including customer saving of £1,250; Rio 5-dr '2' 1.25 @ £11,095 On The Road (OTR) including £1,400 customer saving and excluding optional metallic paint at £445; cee'd '1' 1.4 manual @ £13,500 OTR including customer saving of £900 and excluding optional metallic paint at £465. OTR price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) and Vehicle First Registration Fee. Retail customers only. Subject to availability on vehicles registered between 02 April and 30 June 2013. * 4.9% APR available on Kia Conditional Sale on all models. 10% minimum deposit required on cee'd models only. Maximum term of 36 months. Offer not available in conjunction with any other offer. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. 18's or over. Guarantees / Indemnities may be required. Kia Motors Finance RH1 1SR. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers. We may receive a commission from them for the introduction. Customer savings vary by model derivative. Ask your dealer for full details. †£99 insurance applies to the Kia Picanto 'City', Rio '2', cee'd 5dr '1' and cee'd Sportswagon '1' and is available from Kia Motors Insurance Services for drivers aged 21–80. Subject to standard underwriters terms and acceptance criteria. Eligibility criteria for this offer also applies; go to kia.co.uk/insurance for full details. The £99 offer is restricted to a maximum premium of £1,500. For any premium over this amount, the customer must pay the difference. Kia Motors Insurance Services is arranged and administered by Equity Direct Broking Limited, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. FSA Registered Number 490061.

Smaller Carens driving changes

By Ian Donaldson

There is a raft of standard equipment in the new Kia Carens people carrier

There's a choice of three engines – two diesel and one petrol – with the Carens

Kia has bucked the trend to make every new model bigger than the one it replaces, with the new (and spacious) Carens people carrier.

Shorter, narrower and lower than before, the seven-seat Carens stays roomy inside, thanks to stretching front and rear wheels further apart.

It's the final model in the current Kia family to have been shaped under the influence of design chief Peter Schreyer, formerly of Audi and responsible for the modern Euro look of the Korean brand.

But an MPV needs to be more than good looking, indeed some prosper even after an attack with the ugly stick. It's simply got to work as a daily workhorse, on the school run or as holiday holdall.

So this third generation Carens is coming to the UK as a seven-seater in all its versions, with prices from £17,895 to £23,895, and with a second row of three individual seats, instead of the less practical split bench of the old car.

Each seat folds flat and slides, making it easier to clamber into the rearmost duo, where anyone up to growing teenager size should be comfortable. Kia says the boot it bigger than before and, a nice touch, the front passenger seat folds flat to allow something like a ladder to be carried without resorting to a roof rack.

Boost

There are three engines on offer, with a petrol version leading off the range. Most popular is expected to be the 114 horsepower diesel fitted to the test car, while the same engine with a 20 horsepower boost tops the range.

Kia has shaken off its cheap but cheerful image in remarkably short order and is now confident enough to price its cars around the same level as the more established competition, but keeping a couple of useful sales advantages up its corporate sleeve.

First is the seven-year warranty; the best in the business and meaning a Kia buyer today would still have factory cover in 2020, unless the car had covered a stellar mileage.

Then there's the Carens's raft of standard equipment, with the most popular £20,595 grade '2' diesel having alloy wheels, reversing peepers, auto lights and wipers, folding door mirrors and dual-zone air conditioning alongside the remote central locking, electric windows all round and cruise control fitted across the range.

The steering wheel is leather wrapped and a bit chunky for some hands and the handbrake is close enough to the gear lever housing and central armrest to be mildly awkward to grasp, although nobody these days seems to bother anyway.

Anyway, handbrake off, and we set off on a test drive. The diesel engine is decently distant, the car pulls well and the gears slot into place with minimal work from clutch foot and shift-change arm.

The Carens rides well and there is clearly more emphasis on keeping passengers happy than thrilling the driver.

Bigger smiles, though, when the trip computer showed 58mpg after a test run on a typical set of roads, including enough in-town queues to feel like the 8am run to school.

When you do set off there will be no horrors in store, even on a hill; the Carens keeps the brakes on until you touch the accelerator. So you probably can't take your driving test in this one.

Pass in something smaller and keep the Carens on the back burner until you're a bit older and can hear the patter of tiny feet.

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Official fuel consumption figures in mpg for cars shown, Lowest: (l/100km): FORD Ka 1.2 Duratec 69PS M5: urban 48.7 (5.8), extra urban 64.2 (4.4), combined 57.6 4.9). Official CO_2 emission 115g/km. Highest FORD B-Max 1.4 Duratec 90PS M5: urban 35.8 (7.9), extra urban 57.6 (4.9), combined 47.1 (6.0). Official CO_2 emission 149g/km. *Finance subject to status. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Freepost Ford Credit. This supersedes all previously advertised manufacturer's promotions. Details correct at time of going to print. retail only. Subject to stock availability, terms and conditions apply, please ask us for full details.

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Model shown is Yaris Edition 1.0 VVT-i 3 door manual £11,795. Prices correct at time of going to print. *0% APR Representative only available on new retail orders of Yaris (excluding T2 & Hybrid) when ordered between 1 April 2013 and 30 June 2013 and registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services, Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5UZ before 30 September 2013 on a 3 year AccessToyota (PCP) plan with 0-26% deposit. ^Payment shown is based on a 3 year AccessToyota (PCP) plan with £2,238.40 deposit and Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Excess miles over 30,000 charged at 8p per mile. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Terms and conditions apply. Affordable finance through AccessToyota. †1 year's free comprehensive insurance offer is subject to purchase being made via Toyota Financial Services on a Personal Contract Purchase (PCP) only and is available on all new Yaris models when ordered and financed between 1st April and 30th June 2013. Excludes Yaris Hybrid models. Vehicles must be registered by 30 September 2013. All drivers must be aged 21 years and over. Offer is limited to the insured plus up to four additional drivers. The insured and all drivers must have held a full UK driving licence for a minimum of 2 years and had no more than 1 fault claim in the last 3 years. Offer only available to customers with no more than 1 minor motoring conviction in the last 3 years. Standard Toyota Motor Insurance Terms & Conditions apply (available on request) - these will be confirmed in the policy document. 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty subject to terms and conditions. Free servicing offer is 2 free services for up to 2 years or 20,000 miles.

Yaris Edition 1.0 VVT-i 3 door manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 48.7 (5.8), Extra Urban 65.7 (4.3), Combined 58.9 (4.8). CO_2 Emissions 111g/km.

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4plus Terms and exclusions apply. Warranty 100,000 miles. Service 48,000 miles. Visit **renault.co.uk/4plus** for details. *Rental stated is for Renault Lease. If you choose Renault Lease then you will not own the car. When you have paid the final rental at the end of the contract, you can keep using the car and pay an annual rental equivalent to one monthly rental. Typical example: New Clio Dynamique MediaNav 1.2 16V 75, advance rental **£1,500 inc. VAT** followed by 48 monthly rentals of **£179 inc. VAT**, final rental **£4,668 inc. VAT**. A finance facility fee of £149 will be payable with the advance rental. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. You must be at least 18 and a UK resident (excluding the Isle of Man and Channel Islands) to apply. Finance provided by RCI Financial Services Limited, PO Box 149, Watford WD17 1FJ. Available at participating dealers only. Not available in conjunction with any other schemes or finance offers, please check with your local dealer for information. Offers are available to retail and business customers (but exclude fleet customers with own terms), and are valid on new vehicles when ordered by 24 June 2013. Car shown with optional Flame red metallic paint available at an additional £595. **For example, dCi 90 Stop & Start with a combined cycle of 88.3mpg. †To enter the May Test Drive Promotion, entrants must have completed their test drive between 1 and 31 May 2013. Entrants must be 18 years of age or over and hold a full, clean driving license. No purchase necessary. Completed test-drive forms must be received by 7 June 2013. For full terms and conditions visit renault.co.uk/Monaco

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Model shown is a standard XC60.

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Fuel economy figures for the Micra 1.2 30th ANNIVERSARY 5 DOOR mpg (L/100km). Urban - 46.3 (6.1), Extra Urban - 65.7 (4.3), Combined - 56.5 (5.0), CO_2 emissions 115 g/km. Note 1.4 n-tec+ 5 DOOR Urban - 39.2 (7.2), Extra Urban - 54.3 (5.2), Combined - 47.9 (5.9), CO_2 emissions 139 g/km.

Offers valid until 30 June 2013 at participating dealers only. Finance is available subject to status on eligible new vehicles in the UK. Guarantees and Indemnities may be required. Note n-tec+ Deposit £3,473.75 followed by 37 Monthly payments of £139, Optional final payment £4,772.25. £500 Nissan Deposit Contribution shown on Micra 30th ANNIVERSARY is only available when taken on 6.9% APR HP/PCP or Lease Nissan Finance Product and is not available on Visia grades. Note 0% PCP available with minimum 20% deposit. £500 Nissan Deposit Contribution shown on Note n-tec+ is only available when taken on 0% APR HP/PCP or Lease Nissan Finance Product. Further charges may be made subject to mileage and condition if you elect to return the vehicle at the end of the agreement. Figures based on annual mileage of 10,000 miles. Excess Mileage charged at 8p per mile. Finance provided by RCI Financial Services Limited, PO Box 149, Watford WD17 1FJ. You must be at least 18 and a UK resident (excluding Isle of Man and Channel Islands) to apply. Our dealership introduce customers to a limited number of finance providers including RCI Financial Services Ltd. Finance providers pay us for introducing you to them. Offers not available in conjunction with any schemes or other offers, please visit www.nissan-offers.co.uk or your local dealer for information. Breakdown services provided by RAC Motoring Services and/or RAC Insurance Ltd. All prices include first registration fee and 12 months road fund licence. Information correct at time of going to print. Model shots shown are for illustration purposes only. Models subject to availability. Micra shown has metallic paint at £450 inc. VAT. Note shown has metallic paint at £450 inc. VAT. Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd, The Rivers Office Park, Denham Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 9YS.

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Richard

Of Holy Cross Residential Home, on September 7, 2011, aged 72 years, formerly of Sunnyfields, Bell Lane, Shrewsbury.

Brother of Jan.

Service at Shrewsbury Crematorium on Friday, September 23, 2011, at 10.40am.

No flowers by request, donations if wished to SRF (Schizophrenia Research Fund), for which purpose a collection box will be provided at the Crematorium.

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William
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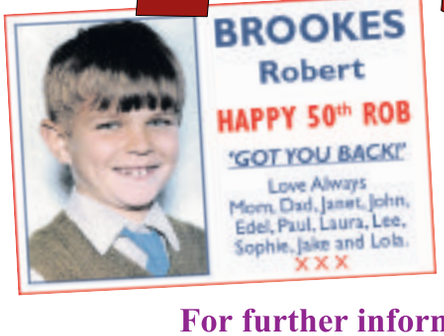

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Completed application forms should be returned to Mrs Jane Read, Practice Manager, Claremont Bank Surgery, Claremont Bank, Shrewsbury. SY1 1RL. Or email jread@nhs.net Informal visits encouraged, Tel 01743 248244 to arrange.

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NOSTALGIA

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When training turned to tragedy

Toby Neal looks into the sad tale of a wartime pilot who lost control of his aircraft over Oswestry

Sergeant Jack Twelftree who had been putting on a bit of a show.

A Miles Martinet aircraft – the type Sergeant Jack Twelftree was piloting that day – July 19, 1943. The mission was to tow a target – a drogue towed behind the aircraft – on a long cable which would be shot at by fighters as part of their combat training.

IT MUST have been a spectacular "beat up" as an aircraft roared from the skies and swooped low over a house on the eastern outskirts of Oswestry.

The pilot, Sergeant Jack Twelftree, was putting on a bit of a show – as the house he was buzzing was that of his crewman's wife.

Whether she was watching his spectacular display is not known. But, had she been, what happened next would have been horrifying.

In a tight turn at low level, the pilot lost control and the aircraft crashed. Her husband, and Sergeant Twelftree, both died.

Historian

It is just one of a number of tragic air accidents which happened in wartime in the Oswestry area, and the story of them, and all the other military aircraft crashes in Shropshire, is told in a new book by Shropshire aviation historian Tom Thorne.

During World War Two over 470 died in accidents caused by bad weather, bad luck, bad judgment, malfunctioning equipment, and the recklessness of youth.

And as Oswestry had an airfield virtually on the doorstep with the big Spitfire training base at RAF Rednal, it was to see its fair share.

It was from Rednal that the Miles Martinet piloted by Sergeant Twelftree took off on July 19, 1943.

Its mission was to tow a target – a drogue towed behind the aircraft on a long cable – which would be shot at by fighters as part of their combat training.

"During the course of the flight the pilot began unauthorised low flying over his drogue operator's wife's house, lost control in a tight turn at 200ft, and crashed," writes Mr Thorne.

The accident happened at Middleton, to the east of Oswestry, at 1.20pm.

Sergeant Twelftree was 32 and a married man, whose home was at Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire, where he is buried.

The drogue operator was Aircraftsman Herbert Alexander Peters, aged 36, of Walthamstow. He is buried in the City of London Cemetery, Manor Park.

Mr Thorne's book "Pancakes & Prangs" names his wife as Sarah Elizabeth Peters, nee Fletcher.

Among other Oswestry area accidents featured is one with a happier outcome.

Spitfire

Again, it involved an aircraft from RAF Rednal, this time a Spitfire, a presentation aircraft named "Bengal Railway I". While on a training flight on November 26, 1943, it suffered engine failure and belly-landed in a field at "Parry's Farm" – Mr Thorne is pretty certain the correct address is actually Perry Farm – Whittington, at 3pm.

The pilot was a 23-year-old Pole, Sergeant Zbigniew Bezwuklo, who was unhurt. He was to survive the war.

"Pancakes & Prangs" costs £25 and is available from bookshops, publishers Bridge Books of Wrexham or direct from Tom Thorne, at Churton House, Pulverbatch, SY5 8BZ (email tomthorne83@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01743 718 270).

● **Do you remember these crashes – or any others from around Oswestry area? Why not drop us a line and share your memories?**

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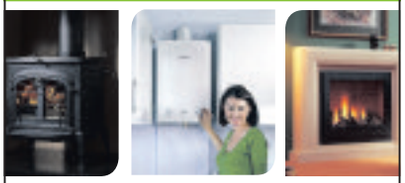

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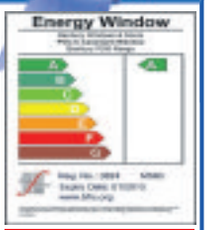

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NEWS in brief

Cow saved from ditch after fall

FIREFIGHTERS spent more than an hour rescuing a cow after it fell into a ditch on Sunday.

The cow was discovered near its farm in Church Street, Whittington, near Oswestry.

A spokesman for Shropshire Fire and Rescue said: "We used straps and a winch to help the cow out of the ditch. A vet was called. We always call the vet when we feel that there may be a reason to sedate the animal."

The fire service were called out at 10.30am and spent more than an hour and half retrieving the cow from the ditch.

Horses blessed by driving group

THE British Driving Society held its annual harness horse blessing at Aston Hall near Oswestry.

Eight turnouts were present and the Rev Roy Evans gave a short sermon and blessed them all. All were presented with a copy of the Irish Blessing to carry for the coming driving season.

The Moonstroller Memorial Trophy for the most attractive carriage went to Mr Taylor of Ellerdine.

Spring fete date

A SPRING fete being held at Berriew School on May 18 will start at noon. Organisers promise an afternoon of fun with games, stalls, food and a raffle all planned.

Magpies are victims of some really bad press

ON THE WILD SIDE

with Ben Waddams

NOT being an animal lover, but instead more interested in the scientific curiosities (and delights) which animals bring me, as well as happily knowing that despite a desire to spend a life-time observing animal behaviour, one will never understand everything about the natural world, means I'm reasonably well-placed to give the following verdict: There's nothing wrong with magpies.

Forget good and bad luck, let's look at the science of this much maligned corvid.

After pigeons, they are, according to the RSPB, one of the most vilified birds in the UK. Near the top of most people's list of reasons is, apparently, "they're a bit cheeky" – anthropomorphism is not an exact science – but the other reason has to do with spring.

The magpie's reputation as a contributor to the decline in British small birds is well known. Its role however (rather than its reputation), is questionable at best. Various studies of songbird declines have found changing agricultural practices are overwhelmingly the largest contributor to the deterioration of our small garden bird species.

Magpies, in fact, began to increase in population as songbirds decreased. And although this sounds like a convincing piece of evidence against the magpie, if you think about it for a moment – it isn't. How can a species continue to increase whilst its food source is decreasing?

If we look further down the list of culprits, in order of severity, up pops the domestic cat, far ahead of any corvid.

I've mentioned this before, so won't go into it again, that although magpies will add easy-to-find nestlings and fledglings to their diet, this is a natural part of the predator-prey relationship. People's cats are not. In actual fact, magpies feed on insects, invertebrates and vegetable matter for most of the year. They can be very useful in controlling garden pests and so far from shooing them from your property, perhaps we should start looking at things with a bit more perspective.

Choughed – acrylic on board – by Ben Waddams.

Magpies are highly intelligent and very adaptable, very much like ourselves. As well as their omnivorous diet they nest in most places where there are trees, large shrubs, or even artificial structures such as pylons.

Breeding magpies hold a territory all year round as nest sites are limited. Because most magpies first breed in their second year, between 25 and 60 per cent of magpies in an area do not breed and therefore are not involved in the hunting of any more songbird chicks than they need to survive.

Their bills are strong with a sharp cutting edge, an ideal tool for cutting flesh, usually carrion, digging up invertebrates, or picking fruit. When food is abundant, magpies hoard the surplus in caches around their territory. Estimates vary, but it is thought that our beloved song birds comprise only around 10 per cent of the summer diet of urban and suburban magpies. No cause for concern – not until we can find solutions to the agricultural and cat problems.

And my illustration this week? You didn't think I'd be silly enough to advertise my column with a picture of a magpie did you?...so instead another clever corvid. The chough. With a diet of ants, few people dislike choughs!

See Ben's artwork at the 'Made in Shropshire' show this Saturday in Shrewsbury's Market Square.

Students are given sporting taster day

MORE than 300 students tried out skills such as dodgeball and fencing during a sporting festival.

Walford and North Shropshire College's first sport festival proved a big success with students who tried out different activities.

It was a sport festival with a twist, as the event was filled with sports and activities which the college doesn't usually offer.

Students were able to take part in 30 minute taster sessions for each of the sports. The day began with dodgeball, rounders, fencing, bokwa and a variety of other sports, and after lunch there were more taster sessions, including ones for boxing, hockey and table tennis. There were also more traditional sports on offer such as rugby, football and tennis.

The event at the Oswestry campus on Tuesday also included stands and displays by a professionals from the sporting world.

Meeting date

THE Castle Caereinion Recreation Association, which is the body responsible for running the village's community hall, will be holding its 2013 AGM on Tuesday, starting at 7pm in the community hall committee room.

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MARKETS

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Welshpool livestock market

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OTMS (61)

An entry of 61 Over thirty Month old cattle sold to average 139ppkg for the older cows. 152ppkg for the bulls and 140ppkg for the heifers under 48 months of age. 41 older cows sold to an excellent top price of £1516.16 for a Limousin cow weighing 824kg from J A Wood & Sons Kinnerton Farm. JG & SE Robinson Cefndu sold a Limousin cow weighing 725kg to £1355.75. Cows under 72 months of age sold to a top of £1283.31 for a Limousin weighing 679kg from R B Jones Llwynobin. J A Wood & Sons Kinnerton receive the Briarwood Products Ltd prize of £25 for the highest price older cow sold on the day. We will be holding a sale for TB Tested over thirty Month cattle from Monday 8th April at 9am in ring 2. If you require any further information contact the market on 01938 553438 or the Auctioneer Glandon Lewis on 07774 224999.

FAT CATTLE (3)

Only 3 fat cattle presented for sale today. I M Willan Ty Mawr sold two Limousinx heifers for 237ppkg and a Simmental heifer from E T Jones & Son Llwynmelin sold for 191ppkg. I M Willan receives the Briarwood Products Ltd prize of £25 for the highest price per kilo animal sold on the day. Weekly sale of Fat cattle every Monday commence at approximately 12.30pm. More Fat Cattle urgently required to meet a very strong demand from potential purchasers. If you require any advise or wish to sell fat cattle at the market please contact the auctioneer Mr Glandon Lewis on 07774 224999 or the market office on 01938 553438.

PRIME HOGGETS (3544)

An entry of 3544 Prime Hoggets, sold to an overall average of 202ppkg.

Super Lights (17.5kg to 25.4kg) (34) to 182ppkg from E Jackson Lane Farm. Average of 175ppkg.

Lights (25.5kg to 32kg) (278) to 214ppkg from D H M Evans & Son Fron Farm. Others to 205ppkg from W I Ellis Talwrn. Average of 185ppkg.

Standards (32.1kg to 39kg) (649) to 210ppkg from D Langford Gaer. Others to 209ppkg from E Jones & Son Goitre. Average of 194ppkg.

Mediums (39.5kg to 45.5kg) (1573) to 226ppkg from E W Howells & Son Oakwood. Others to 222ppkg from CJ & LM Davies Lawns Farm. Average of 207ppkg.

Heavies (45.1kg to 52kg) (522) to 222ppkg from CL & C Watkins Bank Farm. Others to 218ppkg from CJ & LM Davies Lawns Farm. Average of 207ppkg.

Over Weights (Over 52kg) (268) to 200ppkg from CJ & LM Davies Lawns Farm. Others to 195ppkg from T T Jones & Son Glyn Farm. Average of 181ppkg.

SPRING LAMBS (818)

An entry of 8181 spring lambs, selling to an overall average of 256ppkg

Lights (25.5kg to 32kg) (5) to 310ppkg from Bowen & Bowen Penthryn. Average of 291ppkg.

Standards (32.1kg to 39kg) (353) to 288ppkg from J Corfield & Sons Fairfield. Others to 283ppkg from R M Morris & Co Coed Cowrhyd. Average of 261ppkg.

Mediums (39.5kg to 45.5kg) (419) to 276ppkg from EJ & AJ Roberts Longlands. Others to 270ppkg from CJ & ME Williams Minysarn. Average of 252ppkg.

Heavies (45.1kg to 52kg) (30) to 243ppkg from J E Lewis Coedyweeg. Others to 241ppkg from P D Sheppard & Son Heightley. Average of 235ppkg.

Over Weights (Over 52kg) (8) to 203ppkg from R A Owen Tynewydd. Average of 202ppkg.

CULL EWE (1639)

A reduced entry of 1600 sheep met with a favourable trade, with ewes averaging £46.50 and the rams £61.50. Numerous pens of ewes exceeding the £100 mark to a high of £117 from S Yardley 1 Dingle Cottage. An improved demand for hill ewes as well. Many rams surpassing £95 per head with Messers Langford Lletymeibion making £101 of their entry. More entries could have been sold to advantage, particularly the heaviest best meated types.

Weekly sale of cull sheep to immediately follow the sale of fat lambs at approximately 12noon.

STORE LAMBS, COUPLES & CADE LAMBS.

A small entry of 70 store lambs sold to a top price of £49 from E W Eaton Plasgwyn with others to £48. A much larger entry of 530 couples and their lambs sold to a much sharper trade with the promise if some long awaited grasss. Top price in the ewes and lambs was £188 for Texel ewes with twin lambs from D M Jones Rhydairy Cottage Maesbury.

In the Hoggs and Lambs some good quality sorts sold to a top of £190 (also £183) for Welsh mules and single from N Samules Lower Ystrad Builth Wells who won the Whittingham Riddell Accontants prize in the show and sale. Top price for the 10 or more other breeds also sponsored by Whittingham Riddell was £170 for Texelx Hoggs and singles from A Davies Tybrith Llanrhaeadr YM.

Cade Lambs sold to £17 and averaged £9.07 for 47 lambs. A sale of Sheep dog pups sold to £70.

COWS & CALVES

An entry of 29 cows and calves and Breeding bulls met with a Sharper trade. Leading the way at £2150 was D P Evans Moelygarth for a Limousinx 1st calver with a bull calf at Foot. Five others similar outfits from the same home sold to an average of £1855. Two British Bluex 1st calvers with limousinx calves at foot from IJ& MEO Jones Plasmadoc Dolfor sold for £1880 and £2120. E E Powell & Son Cilpentre Berriew sold a British Bluex 1st Calver with a Limousin Heifer calf for £1820. A Roberts & Son Dolau sold two Limousin 4th calvers with heifer calves at foot for £1720 and £1730 also from the Dolau was a five year old Pedigree Limousin Bull Mayfield Dambuster which made £3400. F J Owens & Co Lletygynfach sold three Blondex Cows born 2006/2007 with Blonde calves at foot from £1600 - £1670. Two Herefordx 1st Calvers with limousinx bull calves presented by DJH Foulkes & Son Maesteg sold for £1920 and £1640. Two Pedigree Limousin bulls from Dai Lloyd Bedwgwilym sold for £2700 and £2400. A Breakdown of all the prices achieved where as follows: £2000 + 3 lots, £1800 - £2000 5 lots, £1600 - £1800 7 lots, £1400 - £1600 3 lots, £1200 - £1400 3 lots, £1000 -£1200 3 lots, less than £1000 1 lots.

DAIRY COWS

An entry of 5 Dairy Cows met with a solid trade. R & R Corfield & Co Bronynant sold Two Terling heifers giving 33 & 29 litres respectively for £2140 and £2100. A 2nd calver from M R Williams Wern Holding made £1920. A 5th Calver from the same home sold for £1010. A 4th Calver from AS & EM Goolden & Sons Cil Bach sired by Picton Shottle sold for £1110.

FORTHCOMING SALES: Monday 13th May, Cows and Calves.

Tuesday 14th May, Store Cattle.

Thursday 16th May, Sale of Pedigree Limousin, Simmental, Salers and Charolais Cattle.

Saturday 18th May, Machinery Sale at Coed y Dinas.

Monday 20th May, Cows and Calves and Dairy Cows.

Monday 27th May, Cows and Calves.

Tuesday 28th May, Store Cattle and Weanlings.

Oswestry cattle auctions

May 1,

FAT CATTLE: (76)

Another good number of cattle forward with a firm trade to go with it. Top slots hit 274p from a small holding in Welshampton for a Limousin x Heifer, Steers to 249p and Bulls to 245p. Highest price in the lump was £1664.00 for a Steer. Bottom book of 100p for a plain friesian steer. An overall market average of 206p was achieved

Young Bulls (26) Overall Average 194p.

Light Bulls (1) Selling to 167p (£743/head) from D M J Owen & Co Ashwood Farm

Medium Bulls (18) Average 191p (£965/head) Selling to 245p from J W Jones & Partners Pantglas Isa

Heavy Bulls (7) Average 202.5p (£1185/head) Selling to 238p from A H M Lea & Sons Lee Bridges

Steers (25) Overall Average 212p.

Light Steers (1) Selling to 100p from B P Lewis Pentre Farm

Medium Steers (1) Selling to 249p (£1307/head) from A H M Lea & Sons Lee Bridges

Heavy Steers (23) Average 214p (£1465/head) Selling to 233p from R A Evans & Son Ebnal Lodge

Heifers (25) Overall Average 211p

Light Heifers (1) Selling to 137p (£500/head) from A R Beckett 12 Dolgoch

Medium Heifers (2) Average 201.5p Selling to 228p from W S Powell & Son Hayes Farm

Heavy Heifers (22) Average 214p (£1200/head) Selling to 274p from D Tomley New House Farm

Thank You for your support and keep them coming

FAT LAMBS: (284)

An excellent entry of 284 spring lambs on Wednesday 1st May 2013 for the spring show for the season. The show was judged by Mr Glyn Morris. The 1st prize single 32.5kg - 36kg was won by D M Jones Rhydairy Cottage with a 34kg Lamb at £90 (265p/kg) D M Jones also won the 36.5kg and over with a 37kg lamb at £100 (270p/kg. The 1st prize single under 36kg was won by C J Thomas Ty Draw with a 32kg lamb making £85 (266p/kg) The 1st prize pen of 5 lambs over 36kg was won by H F Jones Ty Newydd with 37kg lambs making £95.50 (258p/kg) the 1st Prize pen of 5 lambs under 36kg was won by A Roberts & Co Buckley with 35kg lambs making £92 (263p/kg).

Lights to 266p, Standards to 270p average 248.5p, Mediums to 268p average 254p, Heavy's to 241p average 233.5p, Overall average 251.5p.

FAT HOGGETTS: (2629)

An excellent entry of 2629 fat hoggets with some excellent consignments of top quality sheep. This was as good of a show as you would find anywhere in the country. The demand on the day was very strong and that was reflected in the flying trade that follows. The overall average for the day was 210p/kg with the medium hoggs averaging at a staggering 216p/kg. 517 standard hoggs levelled at a much improved 198.5p/kg with the top call being £76.20 for 35.5kg hoggs or 215p/kg. 935 medium hoggs levelled at 216p/kg with the top call of 236p/kg from P N Williams & Son Rednall Farm with 44.5kg making £105. The 886 heavy and overweight hoggs averaged £102.70p a head with the top call of £120

Lights to 193p average 186p, Standards to 215p average 198.5p, Mediums to 236p average 216p, Heavy's to 224p average 209.5p, Others to 202p average 184p. Overall average 210p.

FAT EWES: (380)

A small selection of ewes on offer today sold to a faster trade with the overall average of £35.71 not helped by some runs of very plain ewes. Top price was £104 from D M Jones, Newbridge. 17 cull rams averaged £70.50 with a top price of £82.50 from M & G M Parry, Croesaubach.

Please Note : All sheep entering the Market must be tagged.

CALVES: (50)

Plenty of buyers present ensuring strong bidding for all sorts. Best continental males to £400 females to £330 fresians to £132. Charolais Bulls to £400 from Messrs Thomas Cefngribben. Limousin Bulls to £387 from Messrs Edwards Lower Sweeney £368 & £355 from Messrs Lloyd Roberts Pennant Farm £324 from Messrs Evans Glaniwrch. British Blue Bulls to £350 from Messrs Evans Forge Farm £312 from Messrs Francis New Barns. British Blue Heifers to £330 from Messrs Owen Tanycoed £314 from Messrs Cornes Cwmllwynog £294 from Messrs Francis New Barnes. Limousin Heifers to £298 from Messrs Lloyd Roberts Pennant Farm £272 from Messrs Evans Halton Farm £270 from Messrs Edwards Lower Sweeny. Blonde D'Aquataine Bulls to £250 from Messrs Jones Gwastadgoed. Shorthorn Bulls to £198 from Messrs Lewis Jones Grange Farm. Friesian Bulls to £132 £86 & £76 from Messrs Best Pentrego £120 from Messrs Charmley Cegid £98 from Messrs Francis New Barns Farm

U72 & CULL COWS: (42)

A normal seasonal entry of 42 cattle met with the continuing very fast trade. Demand was very sharp for all types of cows, Heifers and Steer, even plain cows very well sold. Top price Cow at 208p/kg. Top price Cow £1729.75 top price Heifer £1411.85 and top price Steer £1438.10

Cows

Charolais to 136p average 134.10p/kg

Limousin to 208p average 159.42p/kg

Friesian to 146p average 115.62p/kg

Others to 137p average 129.41p/kg

Heifers

Limousin to 200p average 187.91p/kg

Friesian to 171p average 152.90p/kg

Others to 188p average 187.41p/kg

Steers

Limousin to 193p average 181.98p/kg

Others to 197p average 148.42p/kg

42 Cattle average 145.17p/kg

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GIG GUIDE 01691 668094

Talented folk act to appear at Ironworks

GIG GUIDE with Edward Roberts

WHAT this week lacks in quantity it more than makes up for in quality, with a select number of superb shows, all worth your time.

First up is Hurray for the Riff Raff an American country/folk band who will be performing at The Ironworks tonight (Thursday).

Headed by the extremely talented Alynda Lee Segarra, the band's music evokes the sounds and feel of America's best country and folk traditions.

The main creative force behind the band, Alynda, 25, writes and sings all their songs.

Growing up in the Bronx, Alynda ran away from home when she was 17 and ended up travelling across North America.

Her delicate country and folk songs caught the attention of UK-based record label Loose Music, who released 'Hurray for the Riff Raff', collecting the songs from her first two albums.

With her long time partner in crime, Yosi Perlstein, handling fiddle, Alynda enlisted the help of honky tonk band Tumbleweeds as they undertook a two-year tour of small bars and clubs across America.

Those two years resulted in the release of 'Look Out Mama' in 2012, an album infused with breathtaking vocals and expert musicianship.

To add to an already great night of music, support comes from Ironworks regulars and local country/folk stand outs Little Red Bird.

The gig starts at 8.30pm with tickets costing £6 in advance and £7 on the door.

You're spoilt for choice on Thursday as French blues group The Curtis Johnson Band will be performing at the Old New Inn, Llanfyllin.

The band's music is reminiscent of the original blues and soul sounds of the 1960s.

Currently touring the UK, this will be their final show before they head back to France.

Support will come from Anglo-Dutch power trio Edd Gartry's T-Bird Rising. The gig starts at 8pm with entry costing £5.

Thursday will also signal the final day of the Whittington Chamber Music Festival. The Leondari Ensemble will be performing Brahms' String Sextet No 2 in G major and String Sextet No 1 in B flat major.

There will also be arrangements of Brahms' Hungarian Dances by James Barralet, which will also include eight local school children. The concert starts at 7.30pm, tickets cost £10.

On Friday night Chris Dumville will be performing an acoustic set at The Lowefield Inn, Marton. The gig starts at 8pm and is free entry.

The Royal Oak in Welshpool will have music from local singer/songwriter Steve Edwards on Friday night.

The Oak Live gig starts at 9pm and entry is free.

Alynda Lee Segarra, lead singer of Hurray for the Riff Raff.

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Art springs to life after creative day on the farm

Wilf Thust working on his tree installation. *Pictures: Peter Flemmich*

Kerry Evison with her clay dinosaurs.

Jim Heath, woodcarver and sculptor.

Sean Price, taking part in some arts activities.

by Sue Austin

ABSTRACT art appeared in the middle of a field near Oswestry at the weekend.

Artist Wilf Thust spotted a fallen tree when he became involved in an art and wild craft weekend at Underhill Farm at Pant

So rather than exhibit his work, he decided to create a new piece of art using the tree.

Over the Bank Holiday weekend he turned the tree into one of his collections of sculptures entitled Wood Lines.

Irene Evison from Underhill Farm said: "It was fascinating watching the tree take on a new life and become part of a work of art. It is quite difficult to describe but Wilf has created lines leading back into the wood from the fallen tree."

Natural

Hundreds of people visited Underhill Farm at the weekend to see art, based on the natural landscape of the Pant and Llanymynech area.

They also become involved in creating arts and crafts themselves from clay modelling, using clay found on the farm to wool weaving.

"We had one dad who was completely engrossed for about an hour in making a clay dinosaur," Mrs Evison said.

Underhill Farm has been restored from dereliction by the Evison family who now run a low impact, eco-tourism venture there.

Wild craft and outdoor activities are held throughout the year and there is also camping and other accommodation including yurts and teepees available.

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Motoring

Performance and style is a winning combination

Drive time with Graham Breeze

PEUGEOT has reinvented the iconic GTi in the shape of the 208 which went on sale last month.

The 208GTi is a powerful and yet economical model designed to appeal to driving enthusiasts with a perfect blend of performance and style, the 208GTi will prove to be an exciting addition to the 208 range.

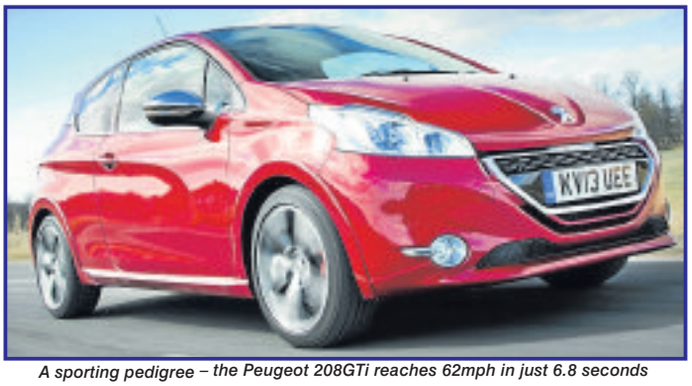
Following the successful launch of the new 208 in June 2012, Peugeot claim to have rejuvenated the supermini car segment. The 208 has been a great success and the 208GTi will deliver even stronger performance and panache.

History

Peugeot has made its mark with an exceptional history of hot hatchbacks; the marque's DNA has the best genes for creating the modern performance GTi and is branded as a playful and chic sports car – a contemporary interpretation of the Peugeot GTi.

Peugeot has had great success in the past with performance vehicles like the XSi, Rallye and GTi. This modern interpretation is designed to appeal to driving enthusiasts who like a blend of performance and style.

Defined on a widened track by 10mm at the front and 20mm at the rear, the three-door models are easily identified by bodywork components that enhance the overall effect. Look out for wheels that hug the arches together with attractive body sills and wing extensions.



A sporting pedigree – the Peugeot 208GTi reaches 62mph in just 6.8 seconds

The 208 GTi can reach 62mph in an impressive 6.8 seconds thanks to a finely tuned 1.6-litre 200bhp turbo petrol engine.

Light in weight, at 1160kg, the 208GTi achieves impressive CO2 emissions of just 139g/km and an impressive 47.9mpg in the combined drive cycle.

As environmental efficiency is a key consideration for all modern cars, particularly those competing in this supermini segment, GTi is class leading.

Revised steering settings increase firmness and the 17in Diamond Carbone wheels house 302mm ventilated discs at the front and 249mm at the rear.

The ride height has been lowered by 8mm, the tracks are wider at the front and the rear due to longer wishbones, and the front struts and rear torsion beam are thicker.

Sportiness is clearly evident with the exhaust emerging with a chromed double tailpipe while chromed trim strip decorates the window lower edge, culminating in a signature that pays tribute to the illustrious 205GTi from days gone by.

Particularly eyecatching and visible both by day and night, the light signature of the front face has new halogen headlamps.

Opening the doors reveals a sporty passenger compartment that reflects the paintwork, with the sill embossed with the name Peugeot sporty. There's a colour scheme combining red, black and satin chrome and red GTi overstitching throughout. The interior is striking, down to the smallest detail.

The striking interior with its red, black and satin chrome colour scheme

The vehicle performance information is provided via the high-mounted instrument panel equipped with a colour matrix, surrounded by dials with a chromed bead back-lit in red by LEDs.

The driver is well supported with an excellent driving position that is 10mm lower than 208 and there's all the steering wheel adjustment that you need to find the right position.

You have to be impressed by Peugeot's safety developments. In the event of a serious accident (measured by the triggering of airbags), the system will automatically contact the emergency services and pinpoint to them the exact location of the vehicle.

Bumper to bumper

Peugeot 208
Model: GTi 1600cc
Price: £18,895
CO2 emissions: 139g/km
0-60mph: 6.8secs
Combined fuel: 47.9mpg

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SPORT

League tables

Oswestry & District Bowling League

Division one: Ceiriog Valley A 7 (146), Church A 3 (123); Chirk AAA A 7 (162), Weston Rhyn A 3 (109); Johnstown A 6 (153), Criftins A 4 (130); Llanymynech A 4 (140), Whittington A 6 (146); Overton A 7 (143), Flexsys A 3 (125); Ruabon A 7 (148), Corwen A 3 (126).

Division two: Church B 7 (142), Llangynog A 3 (113); Cynwyd A 6 (149), Llanrhaeadr A 4 (146); George (154), Johnstown C 3 (135); Whittington B 2 (126), Ye Olde Crofte A 8 (152); Black Lion 3 (150), Johnstown B 7 (154); Johnstown D 5 (143), Llangollen A 5 (136).

Division three: Chirk AAA B 8 (157), Ceiriog Valley B 2 (110); Church C 8 (163), Whittington E 2 (110); Criftins C 9 (161), Llangollen B 1 (91); Overton B 6 (139), Plas Kynaston A 4 (138); Royston A 8 (165), Flexsys B 2 (97); Weston Rhyn C 7 (141), Criftins B 3 (138).

Division four: Ceiriog Valley C 8 (155), Weston Rhyn B 2 (112); Corwen B 2 (135), Ellesmere A 8 (154); Ellesmere B 9 (167), Llangynog C 1 (64); Llanrhaeadr C 10 (168), Church D 0 (96); Llanymynech B 8 (158), Llanfyllin A 2 (115); Whittington C 3 (117), Fox Lane 7 (164).

Division five: Bersham 9 (154), Cynwyd B 1 (102); Chirk AAA C 10 (168), Whittington D 0 (113); Overton C 4 (138), Llanrhaeadr B 6 (144); Ruabon B 8 (154), Royston B 2 (104); Weston Rhyn D 8 (161), Plas Kynaston B 2 (124); Ye Olde Crofte B 3 (131), Johnstown F 7 (137).

Division six: Church E 6 (137), Llanrhaeadr E 4 (130); Criftins D 6 (155), Weston Rhyn E 4 (123); Llanrhaeadr D 7 (153), Llangynog B 3 (103); Llanfyllin B 7 (143), Llanymynech C 3 (115).

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	D	Agg	Pts
Flexsys A	4	3	1	0	+35	24
Chirk AAA A	4	3	1	0	+96	23
Criftins A	4	2	2	0	+52	23
Ceiriog Valley A	4	3	1	0	+33	23
Ruabon A	4	3	1	0	+10	23
Johnstown A	4	2	2	0	+63	22
Corwen A	4	2	2	0	+33	22
Whittington A	4	2	2	0	+5	21
Church A	4	1	3	0	0	18
Weston Rhyn A	4	1	3	0	-122	14
Llanymynech A	4	1	3	0	-129	14
Overton A	4	1	3	0	-76	13

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	D	Agg	Pts
Ye Olde Crofte A	4	3	1	0	+117	27
Llangollen A	4	3	0	1	+94	27
Johnstown B	4	3	1	0	+90	26
Church B	4	2	1	1	-4	23
Cynwyd A	4	2	1	1	-3	21
George	4	2	2	0	-13	19
Johnstown C	4	2	2	0	-33	19
Llanrhaeadr A	4	1	3	0	-7	18
Llangynog A	4	1	2	1	-7	18
Whittington B	4	1	3	0	-80	15
Johnstown D	4	0	2	2	-93	14
Black Lion	4	1	3	0	-61	13

DIVISION 3

	P	W	L	D	Agg	Pts
Church C	4	3	1	0	+86	27
Criftins C	4	2	2	0	+80	23
Chirk AAA B	4	2	1	1	+39	22
Criftins B	4	2	2	0	+41	21
Plas Kynaston A	4	2	1	1	+18	21
Weston Rhyn C	4	2	2	0	-30	20
Royston A	4	2	2	0	+6	19
Llangollen B	4	2	2	0	-32	19
Overton B	4	2	2	0	-38	19
Flexsys B	4	2	2	0	-77	18
Ceiriog Valley B	4	1	3	0	-30	16
Whittington E	4	1	3	0	-63	15

DIVISION 4

	P	W	L	D	Agg	Pts
Ellesmere A	4	4	0	0	+194	33
Fox Lane	4	4	0	0	+106	28
Llanymynech B	4	3	1	0	+99	28
Llanrhaeadr C	4	3	1	0	+93	27
Ellesmere B	4	2	2	0	+145	23
Ceiriog Valley C	4	2	2	0	+22	22
Corwen B	4	1	3	0	+52	18
Llangynog C	4	2	2	0	-59	18
Llanfyllin A	4	1	3	0	-59	15
Weston Rhyn B	4	1	3	0	-139	12
Church D	4	1	3	0	-169	10
Whittington C	4	0	4	0	-285	6

DIVISION 5

	P	W	L	D	Agg	Pts
Bersham	4	4	0	0	+170	31
Ruabon B	4	3	1	0	+101	27
Chirk AAA C	4	2	2	0	+44	25
Plas Kynaston B	4	2	1	1	+12	22
Whittington D	4	2	1	1	-5	20
Llanrhaeadr B	4	1	1	2	-19	20
Royston B	4	2	2	0	+32	19
Johnstown F	4	2	2	0	-22	19
Cynwyd B	4	2	2	0	-21	18
Weston Rhyn D	4	1	3	0	-85	15
Overton C	4	1	3	0	-91	15
Ye Olde Crofte B	4	0	4	0	-116	9

DIVISION 6

	P	W	L	D	Agg	Pts
Llanfyllin B	3	2	0	1	+47	20
Llanrhaeadr D	3	3	0	0	+80	19
Llanrhaeadr E	3	1	2	0	+18	16
Church E	3	1	1	1	-20	14
Llanymynech C	3	1	2	0	-34	14
Weston Rhyn E	3	1	2	0	-65	13
Llangynog B	2	1	1	0	+8	11
Criftins D	2	1	1	0	-2	8
Johnstown E	2	0	2	0	-32	5

Church C continue to lead after good win

CHURCH C continue to lead the way in the Oswestry and District Bowling League division three with a convincing 8-2 home verdict over basement side **WHIITINGTON E,** taking the aggregate 163-110.

Neil Williams and Steve Turner both won their third games of the season to five, while the best response for the visitors was Peter Williams (21-10) with his first win of the term.

In second spot are **CRIFTINS C**, four points behind Church, after their 9-1 (161-91) hammering of Llangollen, with three single figure cards coming from Dean Lewis, who won to three, Lenny Jones (21-8) and Anthony Gillham (21-9).

However, **CRIFTINS B** lost ground as they slipped to fourth spot after suffering a 7-3 reverse at **WESTON RHYN C.**

Eric Gale led the way in Rhyn's second win of the season with a 21-7 verdict, Brian Hulse also winning to 12, while Dave Poole replied with a 21-5 success.

ELLESMERE A continue to sweep aside all before them in division four after marching on at the top of the table with an 8-2 (154-135) win at Corwen B, with Ian Metcalfe (21-8) taking the coppers and Curtis Metcalfe (21-12) not far behind.

LLANYMYNECH B are going well in second following their 8-2 (158-115) home verdict over **LLANFYLLIN A**, Basil Kirkham on song with a 21-5 success while Keith Malkin won to nine.

Battering

LLANRHAEADR C proved too hot to handle as they trounced **CHURCH D** 10-0 (168-96) to soar up to third, with single figure displays from Gwynfor Hughes (21-7) and Emlyn Thomas (21-8).

It's a good times for Ellesmere at the moment with the club's B team in fourth following a 9-1 home battering of Llangynog C, winning the aggregate by 103, with Glyn Davies (21-3) leading the charge.

Paul Lindup (21-1) continued his good form as **FOX LANE** swept to a 7-3 win at **WHITTINGTON C**, whose best response came from Bill Jerman (21-19).

WESTON RHYN B succumbed 8-2 and 43 shots at Ceiriog Valley, Ian Beckett (21-10) one of their two winners.

YE OLDE CROFTE B are still looking for their first win in division five after going down 7-3 at home to Johnstown F, losing the aggregate by just six.

Bert Burton notched a 21-6 win and Tom Davies won to nine, but their efforts were not enough as Crofte prop up the table.

Bill Evans led the way with a 21-4 card as **WESTON RHYN D** recorded an 8-2 (161-124) home verdict over Plas Kynaston B, Malcolm Jones also chipping in with a 21-10 win.

WHITTINGTON D suffered a 10-0 (168-113) whitewash at Chirk C, Colin Bain going closest to stemming the tide when losing to 20.

Good wins from Gwilfa Edwards (21-13) and Juliet Brown helped **LLANRHAEADR** B to a 6-4 success at Overton C, taking the shots by six (144-138).

LLANFYLLIN B are setting the early pace in division six after seeing off **LLANYMYNECH C** 7-3 (143-115) with Victor Thomas (21-6) and John Brautigam (21-5) leading the way, while Jeff Thomason (21-8) was the pick of the replies.

Responses

CHURCH E stayed in touching distance of the leaders with a 6-4 (137-130) home success over **LLANRHAEADR E**, Jana Cama (21-6) taking the coppers, with Huw France (21-9) the best of the responses.

Good single figure wins from Rob McBride (21-7) and Billy Jones (21-8) helped steer **CRIFTINS D** to a 6-4 (155-123) success over **WESTON RHYN E**, Ian Beckett (21-12) responding.

Cobra lads book spot in Youth Cup final

COBRA's youngsters booked their ticket for the final of the North Wales Youth Cup with a 20-9 victory at Denbigh – and will now meet Llandudno in their pursuit of some silverware.

The Meifod lads ran in four tries to seal victory through fullback Rhodri Mayor, scrum half Harry Jukes, second row Ed Davies and Richard Noakes.

They now face Llandudno (who were 28-3 winners over Ruthin) in the final at Eirias Park, Colwyn Bay, on Saturday (12.30 kick off).

Last week's clash also counted as a league match in the North Wales Youth League.

COBRA's senior side are also at Colwyn Bay the following Saturday (18 May) as they take on Bala in the final of the North Wales Plate.

The final takes place at the Colwyn Bay rugby club.

Before then, the club celebrate an excellent season, which saw them secure promotion from the Swalec League division two (north) as runners-up, at their annual dinner at Oswestry's Wynnstay Hotel on Saturday.

Whittington hit top form after slow start to season

AFTER a slow start to the season, Whittington A are now up to speed after moving third in the Oswestry and District Bowling League division one with an 8-2 home success over Ceiriog Valley A.

Skipper Aled Davies returned to the helm to maintain his 100 per cent record with a fourth win when prevailing 21-9 in his side's 20-shot success (147-127). His father Mervyn also made it four wins from five with a 21-9 card while the biggest win came from John Hughes, to six.

It has been a good recovery from the villagers who have now won three on the bounce after suffering back-to-back losses."We had a bad start to the season, but we are starting to play a bit better now as a team and it was nice to get a good win against a good team, although the match was tighter than the score suggests," said captain Davies.

Whittington were level 2-2 after the first four, before cleaning up in the back four for a win that puts them in good heart for next week's tricky trip to Johnstown A.

CHURCH A's modest campaign continued as they crashed 8-2 at home to Johnstown A, who secured the aggregate 142-120.

Despite the defeat, Steve Williams kept up his good form for the Oswestry club by winning to three, his fifth straight win. Travis Stokes won to 13, making it four wins this season for the skipper, but that was as good as it got, with Graham Mansfield losing to 19.

It was a disappointing night, but Church – who are now languishing third from bottom – will be out to bounce back at lowly Overton A next Tuesday.

Gary Wilkie continued his tremendous form for CRIFTINS A when notching his fifth straight victory with a 21-10 (156-130) success in their 8-2 home verdict against Ruabon A. The defending champions remain one point clear, while also having a positive shots aggregate of 78.

BOWLS
by John Bridgwater

Skipper Terry Thompson weighed in with a 21-13 win, and Dave Edwards (another player to have won all five games this term to be second in the averages) also came through 21-15 in a solid all round team display against tricky opponents who bowled the green well.

At the other end of the table, lowly LLANYMYNECH A lifted themselves away from the basement places after seeing off lowly visitors Overton A for a timely 7-3 (141-114) success.

Encounter

Roger Candlin and Mark Kirkham – with his third win of the season – led the way with comfortable 21-2 wins, and Paul Smith won to 10. It was 2-2 after the first four, before Llany surged ahead in the back four. James Candlin also won 21-19, making it four wins out of five.

They are now five points above table propping Overton and head to Weston Rhyn A next week in good heart.

WESTON RHYN A, lying second bottom, returned with a creditable 6-4 defeat at Corwen A who collected the extra two points on offer after taking the aggregate 147-132.

Andrew Riley, who is flying high in the averages, secured his fourth win out of four when taking his match 21-14, while Sue Taylor won by a similar margin for her first victory of the campaign. Derek Taylor prevailed 21-17 and John Renwick to 18, both players having now registered three wins this season.

LLANRHAEADR A, who were able to field their strongest line-up for the first time this season, are proving one of the leading lights in division two after marching on with a 10-0 (168-95) whitewash over WHITTINGTON B who now languish second from bottom.

Neil Jones led the charge with a 21-3 win, Mark Evans winning to eight and Ian Jones 21-9, while Brian Whitley came closest for the visitors when losing to 20.

CHURCH B, who host Llanrhaeadr next week, were happy with their efforts in their tough encounter at Johnstown B, narrowly going down 6-4 after losing the points aggregate 151-129.

The visitors won three of the first four, before the home side rallied in the back four to turn the match around. Wendy Kendrick and Cheryl Weaver came through to 19 and 20 respectively for Church, and Glenys Jones won to 16, while Merv Weaver was a 21-12 winner.

BLACK LION lifted themselves off the foot of the table following their closely fought 6-4 loss at Llangynog A, in which they lost the aggregate by just 10 (152-142).

Kark Adams was a 21-8 winner, and Chris Lloyd won to 12 in a match that saw several close games before it was settled on the shots aggregate.

Meanwhile, there was another close game when Black Lion went down 7-3 at home to Johnstown B the previous week, being edged out by just four shots.

Eddie Rush was their best winner, to 10.

Golf result

The Vice Captain's Cup at Llanymynech GC was won by Ron Fox with a score of– 81-14=67. Second place went to Nick Williams with 85-18=67 while Tom Weetman was third with 92-24=68. Best Gross was Allen Lewis 76.

Ifton in high spirits for clash at Bylet

IFTON's bowlers hit the road in high spirits tomorrow night when they head to Bylet looking to consolidate their mid-table status in the Flowfit Shropshire Premier League.

Boosted by their 9-3 home win over previous leaders Meole Brace last week, the St Martins side would dearly like at least five winners tomorrow against a side lying second from bottom.

Now up to seventh in a congested table, skipper Dicky Jones warned that Bylet will provide tricky opponents despite their modest start.

"They are a much improved team this year and it's going to be difficult," he said.

"If we can five winners, and perhaps sneak the aggregate, then we would be happy with that.

"It's important we put points on the board now as we've got a tough June coming up with three of our four matches away from home.

"But we can take a lot of positives from our performance against Meole Brace last week as they have got a good record on our green."

Ifton never looked back after winning three of the first four games, before sharing the middle and back fours to take the aggregate by 23 shots.

Nicky Jones was the most valuable player with his 21-13 win over Colin Beaman, his third victory of the campaign, while Andrew Hughes (21-6) took the coppers.

Giles Evans won to 20 in the middle, after appearing to be heading to defeat at one stage, while Martin Jones lost to 20.

Hughes and Martin Jones both miss tomorrow's action, so Keiron Cooper and Geraint Williams are added, the latter making his first appearance of the season.

Gethin is off to a winning start

Max Gethin on his way to victory in the Hafren Cycling Club's Time Trial

HAFREN Cycling Club's Time Trial series gott underway for the 2013 season with its first event being held in Welshpool.

With £1 from every rider in this first event going to the Welsh Air Ambulance, organisers were thrilled to see such a strong field, with 39 riders taking on the 10 mile course.

In addition to the usual big hitters from the 2012 series, 17 new riders took to the start line for their first ever Hafren time trial with the conditions perfect for some quick times.

After being edged out of top spot in the overall standings last year by Medwyn Jones, Max Gethin was looking for a strong start to the season to go one better this time around.

And so it proved, with Gethin stopping the clock first on the night in a time of 22:44, which was over 90 seconds quicker than he finished the same course last season, taking the overall lead from Jones by 37 seconds.

Tomos Owens took the overall third spot, and with it the first junior place, in a time of 24:08. The next three places went to Kamil Studzinski, Graham Harris and Carl Spencer, all finishing within 14 seconds of each other!

While there were many standout performances on the night by newbie TT-ers, Morgan Hill took 16th overall and second in the junior section in a time of 26:21, with Jacqui Loxam taking the win in the ladies race in a time of 33:23.

Information

To help boost the charity pot, riders were greeted at the finish line with homemade flapjacks (for a small donation) which pushed the donations raised on the night to over £50.

With such a strong start to the season, this week's 12.5 mile time trial in Newtown last night (wed) was now eagerly awaited.

For more information or to check out the full results from the first race, visit the website www.hafren.cc

League tables

English Clubs Championships

NATIONAL LEAGUE 3 MIDLANDS

MIDLANDS 1 WEST

	P	W	D	LDiff	BP	Pts
Old Halesonians	26	23	1	2	736	23 117
Worcester Wandrs.	26	21	2	3	526	19 107
Lichfield	25	19	0	6	379	19 95
Burton	26	16	1	9	309	17 83
Stoke on Trent	26	15	0	11	296	19 79
Hereford	26	16	0	10	129	12 76
Stratford Up Avon	26	14	2	10	7	13 73
Walsall	26	13	1	12	71	15 69
Whitchurch	26	11	0	15	-233	11 55
Berkswell & B'lsall	26	9	0	17	-336	7 43
Barkers Butts	26	7	0	19	-451	10 38
Ludlow	26	6	1	19	-278	10 36
Northwich	26	5	0	21	-586	6 26
Camp Hill	25	2	0	23	-569	3 6

MIDLANDS 2 WEST (NORTH)

	P	W	D	LDiff	BP	Pts
Silhillians	20	17	0	3	310	15 83
Moseley Oak	20	16	0	4	222	9 73
Wolverhampton	20	14	0	6	247	17 73
Leek	20	12	1	7	183	11 61
Spartans	20	10	0	10	-51	9 49
Stafford	20	9	0	11	-73	6 42
Old Saltleians	20	8	1	11	-88	10 39
Bridgnorth	20	5	0	15	-77	9 29
Tamworth	20	7	0	13	-130	4 27
Aston Edwardians	20	5	0	15	-304	7 27
Veseyans	20	6	0	14	-239	6 25

MIDLANDS 3 WEST (NORTH)

	P	W	D	LDiff	BP	Pts
Willenhall	22	18	0	4	291	13 85
Stourbridge Lions	22	16	2	4	267	15 78
Newcastle	22	14	1	7	173	16 74
Handsworth	22	10	0	12	2	18 58
Shrewsbury	22	11	0	11	46	12 56
Burntwood	22	11	2	9	-51	5 54
Bloxwich	22	11	0	11	-92	10 54
Edwardians	22	10	1	11	-20	12 54
Wednesbury	22	9	1	12	-23	11 49
Eccleshall	22	7	0	15	-176	10 33
Yardley & District	22	8	1	13	-39	6 30
Cleobury M'rtimer	22	3	0	19	-378	1 13

MIDLANDS 4 WEST (NORTH)

	P	W	D	LDiff	BP	Pts
Market Drayton	20	15	1	4	459	15 77
Uttoxeter	20	15	1	4	223	14 77
Cannock	20	15	1	4	165	7 70
Tenbury	20	12	0	8	47	10 58
Harborne	20	8	1	11	-43	11 46
Five Ways OE	20	8	0	12	-71	13 45
Olee Hill	20	9	1	10	-81	3 41
Bishops Castle	20	8	0	12	7	9 41
Bromyard	20	8	0	12	-94	7 39
Barton-U-Needwd.	20	8	0	12	-66	10 37
Telford Hornets	20	1	1	18	-446	4 5

SOUTH LANCS/CHESHIRE DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	LDiff	BP	Pts
Sefton	24	23	0	1	675	20 112
Douglas	24	21	0	3	614	16 100
Ormskirk	26	17	0	9	342	17 80
Vagabonds	25	15	1	9	90	14 76
L'pool Collegiate	25	15	1	9	152	13 75
Dukinfield	25	14	1	10	63	14 72
Southport	26	10	1	15	-69	10 52
Moore	25	11	0	14	-237	10 49
Wallasey	25	9	1	15	-191	9 47
Ramsey	24	10	1	13	-267	8 45
Oswestry	24	9	1	14	-188	6 44
Marple	26	6	1	19	-296	12 38
Oldershaw	26	6	1	19	-383	7 33
Buxton	25	4	1	20	-305	9 27

St Martins dice with relegation

ST MARTINS continue to flirt with relegation danger in the West Midlands League division one after crashing 6-0 at home to high flying Smethwick – their sixth straight defeat.

Just a few days after going down 7-3 at Hanwood, the Saints were again left exposed at the back as they were breached six more times to remain fourth from bottom, but just three points above the basement places.

SPORT

Triathlete Collins in Masters gold haul

KIM Collins, a member of Oswestry Triathlon club, took the Welsh Open Masters Swimming Championships by storm as she surpassed all expectations with a record breaking gold medal display.

Kim, a school teacher at Ellesmere College, took part in five events in the 45-49 age group when swimming for Chirk Dragons, first collecting a bronze and a personal best in the 800 freestyle – finishing just behind the current British champion and Welsh champion.

It was then Kim's turn to collect the gold medals – winning the 50 metres freestyle, 50 metres breaststroke, 100 metres breaststroke and 200 metres breaststroke, setting personnel best times in all events and smashing the Welsh record by seven seconds in the 200 metres breaststroke.

Kim is a member of Oswestry Triathlon club and competed in two Ironman events in 2012, but has taken a year out to concentrate on masters swimming.

Swimmers

She now swims for Chirk Dragons and her future events will include the British long course Championships at Plymouth in June, European masters in Eindhoven, Holland in August, and British short course championships at Sheffield in October.

Meanwhile, Chirk Dragons had six swimmers at the recent Welsh Age group and Youth Championships, and enjoyed their first ever medal in the event through 12-year-old Dyfan Jones.

The other swimmers were Megan Davies (16), Owen Jones (15), Catherine Parsonage (15) Richard Healey (14) and Cari Davies (13).

All the swimmers returned with at least one personnel best time, and finished in the top 12.

Three made finals, with Megan Davies finishing eighth in 100m breaststroke, and Richard Healey eighth in the 200m breaststroke.

Dyfan Jones, who had not long returned from illness, reached four finals, finishing fourth in the 200m freestyle and 200m backstroke, but went one place better in the 100m freestyle and came close to snatching gold in the 100m backstroke, but narrowly missed out winning the silver medal.

He was just short of a British qualifying time.

Free taster sessions at tennis club

OSWESTRY Tennis Club is participating in Play Tennis Week – an initiative to try to encourage more people to play tennis.

The club is running free sessions for anyone living in or around Oswestry.

The sessions will be personalised to cater for all abilities and will be held on the club courts on Sunday mornings, May 12 and 19, from 10-12noon and on Monday and Wednesday evenings May 13-15, from 6.30-8.30. More information can be found on oswestrytennisclub.btck.co.uk.

As a taster to this event the club enjoyed a pre-season social get together with a round robin group tennis session followed by lunch which was enjoyed by all the members, while the next one is already planned for June.

Ellesmere are caned by Beacon batsmen

ELLESMERE were put to the sword as Beacon's batsmen went on the run rampage with some swashbuckling strokeplay in their drawn Shropshire Cricket League division two clash.

Asked to bat first, early leaders Beacon cashed in as they racked up 311-6 in 40 overs to take charge of their encounter.

Doug Reynolds ran amok as he plundered 156 not out in just 91 deliveries, with his second 50 coming off 21 balls and his third 50 in 20 balls.

In all he smashed eight sixes and 18 fours all round the ground.

Dave Howarth joined in the spree with 85, his 50 coming off just 33 balls and his 45-ball innings contained five sixes and nine other boundaries.

He and Reynolds featured in a stunning partnership of 192 for the fifth wicket in 67 minutes and 84 balls. Mike Lewis escaped some of the punishment to finish with 3-67 for the hosts.

In reply, with little chance of reaching their target, Ellesmere played out for a draw as they closed on 159-4 in 40 overs. Lee Davies top scored on 49, with nine fours, skipper Lee Thomas finishing on 45 not out (eight fours and a six) and opener Mike Lewis making 26.

Opener Jamie Birch hit a fine century for ELLESMERE II in his side's drawn clash with Cound III in division six.

After Cound posted 192-5 (Jordan Evans taking 3-27), Birch led the way in reply with 101, including four sixes and 13 fours, as Ellesmere were hanging on at 164-9 in reply. Only one other player (Jordan Evans with 26) got into double figures.

Paceman

CAE GLAS held the upper hand against Harcourt as they maintained their solid early start to division three.

Put in the bat at Gatacre, Glas mustered a creditable 190-9 off their 40 overs, with Andy Griffiths run out for 30 before Ian Holgate, another run out victim, made 41 and Ruchira Nimanath (37) to bolster the total. Harcourt started well in reply, with the first three batsmen all in the runs with Martin Owen making 60, but Keith Yapp (4-33) snapped up three quick wickets to halt them in their tracks.

They eventually finished on 149-6 in their 40 overs, with Ian Holgate and Gareth Edgerton the other wicket takers.

CAE GLAS II suffered their third defeat in the reserve division three when going down by 17 runs at Market Drayton II.

Their hosts were asked to bat and at 58 for no wicket were comfortably placed for a big total.

It was at this point that Matt Coulson ripped through the opposition, dismissing the first six Drayton batsmen in a 13-over spell that left their hosts on 104-6 and gave the young paceman figures of 6-32.

That was as good as it got for The Glas, as the Drayton tail, led by skipper Steve Wickstead (28 not out), wagged their way to 147-9 from their 45 overs.

In reply, The Glas failed to establish partnerships of any note, and at 24-4 were staring humiliation in the face.

Shaun Southern then took the game to the opposition, smashing his way to 36 in a fight back that, for a moment, raised the hopes of the visitors.

In the end , it proved to be a false hope as they ended on 130 all out and only 12 deliveries from a creditable draw that, one hour earlier, had looked well beyond them. Drayton picked up 24 points and Glas five.

Bagged

After being skittled for 37 the previous week, GUILSFIELD bounced back with an emphatic winning draw against Wem III in division four.

Alex James led the way with 72 as the Guils declared on 243-5, opener Sam Griffiths also hitting 61.

In reply, Wem were hanging on at 140-9 at the close, against some fine bowling from Tom Kneale who bagged 7-36 off 11 overs.

Record seventh wicket stand helps Frankton to first win

A RECORD breaking seventh wicket stand helped newcomers Frankton storm to a crushing 149-run victory at Albrighton – their first win since promotion to the Shropshire Cricket League premier division.

Prospects did not look good when they were toiling on 72-7 after being put in to bat, before a stunning stand of 172 between Thomas Wilkie and Richard Parry-Jones turned the game on its head.

Wilkie smashed 91, containing 15 fours and two sixes, while Parry-Jones made 94 in just 72 deliveries, with four sixes and 13 other boundaries, to lift Frankton up to an unlikely 260 all out in 41.4 overs.

Stunned by the onslaught, Albrighton crumbled to 111 all out in 29 overs in reply, with Thomas Welti taking 3-12 from seven overs and Sam Phillps 3-22 from six, while there were two wickets for Stuart Lammie. Frankton are now up to mid-table.

MONTGOMERY and Newtown fought out a draw in division one after Monty had posted 162-9 in 50 overs, Charlie Clinton top scoring on 43.

In reply, Newtown held out for a draw on 142-8, with two wickets apiece for Andrew Barker, Clinton and Jonathan Williams.

KNOCKIN & KINNERLEY suffered a seven wicket loss at Bishop's Castle in division two as Simon Palmer made it six of the best for the home side.

Opening bowler Palmer picked up 6-30 in 15 overs as Knockin were limited to 157-9 in 40 overs, with skipper Steven Gray holding the innings together with an unbeaten 68 and opener Michael Gray making 38 before Hugh Morris' lively 32 stopped a mid-innings collapse.

Opener Andrew Lewis then led the way in a well-timed reply with a solid 65 not out, with eight fours and a six, as Castle reached their target for the loss of three wickets with four balls to spare.

Skipper Richard Plant also weighed in with 38 and Jake Cintra 38 not out, both players scoring at a run a ball.

Openers Bluey Thomas (58) and Ed Nicholas (88) put on 155 for the first wicket as KNOCKIN & KINNERLEY II beat Shelton II by five wickets.

Chasing 204-5, in which Marcus Williams took 3-48, Knockin made an excellent start and, despite a clatter of wickets, earned their first full points win of the season in reserve division two.

A late collapse proved costly as KNOCKIN & KINNERLEY III succumbed by 78 runs to Hales in division five.

Put in, Hales posted 243-4 in 40 overs with opener Jim Brookes bowled by Barrie Christopher (2-29) for 99, Charles Harrison also hitting 52.

Julian Gallimore led the response before being bowled for 82, Christopher also chipping in with 22 before a late slump saw Knockin sent back for 165 in 35.5 overs.

FRANKTON II stormed to a 110-run win over Albrighton II in the reserve division two after skittling their opponents for 73 in response to 183-9 in 45 overs.

Batting first, they were helped along by Dave Powell (28), Richard Jones (27) and Danny Evans (32) before James McCarthey provided late impetus with 49 not out.

Albrighton never recovered from a poor start as they crashed to 73 all out in the 34th over, Richard Lammie taking 4-25 from 12 overs and Danny Evans cleaned things up by taking two wickets without conceding a run.

WHITTINGTON cantered to a seven wicket success over Worfield III in division five thanks to an excellent display from their bowlers.

Put in, Worfield were sent back for 109, with the only resistance coming from Arron Turner (44), with the wily Brian Whitley taking 4-35 while there were three wickets apiece from Jason Whitley and Rob Morris.

Despite the loss of three early wickets, Morris steadied things with 46 not out and got good support from Brian Whitley (22no) to seal victory in the 22nd over.

A young FRANKTON III side went down by six wickets at Wellington V in division five.

Batting first, they made 142-7 with Will Smith top scoring with 27 not out and Will Evans making 25.

But Wellington got home for the loss of four wickets in the 29th over, with Chris Newbold (51no) seeing them to their target.

MONTGOMERY II suffered an 11-run loss at home to their Newtown counterparts in a low scoring affair in the reserve division two.

Opting to bat first, Newtown could only muster 79 in 33.4 overs, with Keith Griffiths finishing with 4-2 and James Corfield 2-19.

But Monty fared even worse in reply, collapsing to 68 all out with Stan Davies (17) the only player to get into double figures. Matt Humphreys took 4-13 for the visitors.

WELSHPOOL III eased to an eight wicket win over Grove II at Maesydre to maintain their bright start that sees them top of division six.

Allan Edward Wlliams took 3-24 as Grove were sent back for 91 in the 25th over, while there were two wickets apiece for Mat Sherwood, Keiran Evans and Jack Windsor.

Matthew Knight then hit 40 at the top of the order to see Pool home for the loss of two wickets in 17 overs in reply, Roger Knight also making 22 not out.

Opener Jamie Birch hit a fine century for ELLESMERE II in his side's drawn clash with Cound III in division six.

After Cound posted 192-5 (Jordan Evans taking 3-27), Birch led the way in reply with 101, including four sixes and 13 fours, as Ellesmere finished on 164-9 in reply. Only one other player (Jordan Evans with 26) got into double figures.

CRICKET
by John Bridgwater

Richard Parry-Jones

Rider Gee is king of the forest

Gee Atherton is joined on the podium by Marc Beaumont and Adam Beaufort

FORMER World Champion Gee Atherton led the way in the first round of the Pearce Cycles Downhill Mountain Bike Series in Bringewood forest, Ludlow.

The event attracted 330 riders who were treated with a dry track with many twists, turns and jumps through the tight tree sections before hitting speeds of 40+kph towards the bottom open section. Atherton, from Oswestry, took first place in front of GT Factory Racing teammate Marc Beaumont, from Craven Arms, while Church Stretton's Jessica Stone won the women's category.

Six wickets for six runs collapse floors Oswestry

AN ABYSMAL batting collapse, which saw the loss of six wickets for six runs, condemned Oswestry's cricketers to their second successive defeat as they went down by four wickets at Harbone in Division Two of the Birmingham League.

Mark Robinson's side seemed on course for a useful total when they reached 79-2 after batting first on an under-prepared pitch.

But 30 minutes later they were 85-8, and victory seemed a long way off.

Kevin Evans hit a spirited 24 to take them to 130 all out, but they were probably 30 runs short of a winning total. Earlier Alex Huxley had batted well to reach 39.

The Oswestry bowlers battled superbly to defend the modest score, with Warrick Fynn taking 2-14 off his 10 overs, and Jonathan Miles 2-31.

But they weren't helped by their fielders, as dropped catches let the home side off the hook. Harborne eventually reached their target at 131-6 with three overs to spare.

A magnificent century by 16-year-old Scott Hale was the highlight of a real run feast between OSWESTRY II and Penkridge at Morda Road – a game which the visitors won by 38 runs.

Hale hit 15 fours and a six in his 107 as Oswestry made a brave effort to chase Penkridge's massive total of 376-9. With David Hartshorn adding 76, Callum Morris 40no and Josh Coleridge 38no, they reached 338-8 before they ran out of overs, meaning a total of 714 runs were scored in the match – surely a record for the ground.

Earlier Hartshorn (3-17) and Hale (2-37) had been Oswestry's most successful bowlers.

OSWESTRY IV made it three wins out of three in the Shropshire League reserve division three with an exciting five-run success against Bishop's Castle II at Morda Road on Sunday.

Fixtures

Takudzwa Sai top-scored on his debut for Oswestry with 41 in a disappointing total of 98 all out, and Iwan Roberts added 25 before falling to a spectacular boundary catch.

Roberts then took 3-30 as Castle were bowled out for 93 in reply, with Nick Woodcock taking 2-10 and Dominic Kular 2-17.

● Oswestry will make the long journey to Stratford-upon-Avon on Saturday as they look for their first win of the season in the Birmingham League division two, while the second team are at home to Milford Hall.

The thirds, who were without a fixture last weekend, visit Church Aston, and the fourth string are away to Acton Reynald II.

Golf results

SUNDAY saw Welshpool Golf Club's the first mixed competition of the season, the Drayton Cup.

This was a Greensome Medal with Ann Downes-Evans and Arwel Jones in first place carding 65.2 points. In second were 13 year old Rachel Pugh and Dave Jones with 68.2 beating Heather Lawton and Andy Cale on countback '

The Puleston Jones Cup on Saturday was won by Mark Lloyd with a score of 87-20 = 67. He was followed by Mick Curley with 84-17 = 67 and H G Norris 91-22 = 69 was in third place and Chris Hughes 94-24 = 70 fourth.

The Coronation Vase was won by Graham Jones with 39 pts. Second was Martin Hughes with 38pts.

Third spot went to Chris Proctor with 37pts while 36 pts gave Richard Jones a fourth spot.

Robin Annison Qualifier was won by Harry Bowen with 75 followed Richard Templeton with 77 and Dave Ricvhards with 81. Fourth spot went to Bob Aldridge also with 81.

The Brandon Smith was won by Stephen Morris with 69. Dave Rowlands was second with 70. Third was Harry Bowen also with 70 and N S Wells came fourth with another 70.

In the Greenhous Bogey Rhydian Jones was first with 0 ahead of Owain Jones, also on 0 and P R (Sammy) Marck on -2.

In fourth spot on -4 was Des Evans.

League tables

Birmingham & District Premier Cricket League

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	2	L	A	Bat	Bwl	Pts
Brockhampton	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	40
Himley	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	40
Shrewsbury	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	40
Walsall	2	1	1	0	4	3	27
Knowle & D'ridge	2	1	1	0	2	4	26
Barnt Green	2	1	1	0	0	4	24
West Brom D'mth	2	1	1	0	1	3	24
Kidderminster Vict.	2	1	1	0	2	0	22
Wombourne	2	1	1	0	0	0	20
Wolverhampton	2	0	2	0	6	6	12
Berkswell	2	0	2	0	3	4	7
Walmley	2	0	2	0	4	3	7

DIVISION 1

	P	W	2	L	A	Bat	Bwl	Pts
Dorridge	2	2	0	0	0	0	40
Leamington Spa	2	2	0	0	0	0	40
Wellington	2	2	0	0	0	0	40
Barnards Green	2	1	1	0	3	4	27
Ombersley	2	1	1	0	2	4	26
Bromsgrove	2	1	1	0	2	3	25
Kenilworth Wrdns	2	1	1	0	2	3	25
Brewood	2	1	1	0	2	3	25
Smethwick	2	1	1	0	0	3	23
Moseley	2	0	2	0	5	7	12
Old Hill	2	0	2	0	5	2	7
Shifnal	2	0	2	0	3	3	6

DIVISION 2

	P	W	2	L	A	Bat	Bwl	Pts
Attock	2	2	0	0	0	0	40
Eastnor	2	2	0	0	0	0	40
Harborne	2	2	0	0	0	0	40
Halesowen	2	1	1	0	3	1	24
Old Elizabethans	2	1	1	0	0	4	24
Stourbridge	2	1	1	0	0	3	23
Water Orton	2	1	1	0	1	2	23
Stratford-up-Avon	2	1	1	0	2	0	22
Coventry & NW	2	1	1	0	1	0	21
Whitchurch	2	0	2	0	5	7	12
Oswestry	2	0	2	0	3	5	8
Fordhouses	2	0	2	0	3	4	7

DIVISION 3

	P	W	2	L	A	Bat	Bwl	Pts
Cannock	2	2	0	0	0	0	40
Penkridge	2	2	0	0	0	0	40
Penn	2	2	0	0	0	0	40
Streetly	2	2	0	0	0	0	40
Milford Hall	2	1	1	0	4	3	27
Kings Heath	2	1	1	0	3	4	27
Tamworth	2	1	1	0	3	4	27
Bridgnorth	2	1	1	0	3	1	24
Quatt	2	0	2	0	5	7	12
Worcester N'mds	2	0	2	0	4	2	6
Aston Manor	2	0	2	0	2	2	4
Evesham	2	0	1	0	0	2	2

2nd XI

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	2	L	A	Bat	Bwl	Pts
Harborne	2	2	0	0	0	0	40
Shrewsbury	2	2	0	0	0	0	40
Wolverhampton	2	1	1	0	2	3	25
Himley	2	1	1	0	3	2	25
Moseley	2	1	1	0	2	3	25
Walmley	2	1	1	0	2	2	24
Old Hill	2	1	1	0	3	3	23
Dorridge	2	1	1	0	0	1	21
Knowle & D'ridge	1	1	0	0	0	0	20
Leamington Spa	2	0	2	0	6	5	11
Barnt Green	2	0	2	0	5	2	7
Walsall	1	0	1	0	1	1	2

DIVISION 1

	P	W	2	L	A	Bat	Bwl	Pts
Brockhampton	2	2	0	0	0	0	40
Kidderminster Vict.	2	2	0	0	0	0	40
Shifnal	2	2	0	0	0	0	40
West Brom D'tmth	2	2	0	0	0	0	40
Stratford-up-Avon	2	1	1	0	3	3	26
Attock	2	1	1	0	3	2	25
Bridgnorth	2	1	1	0	3	1	24
Halesowen	2	1	1	0	2	2	24
Wombourne	2	0	2	0	3	6	9
Wellington	2	0	2	0	1	7	8
Smethwick	2	0	2	0	4	3	7
Tamworth	2	0	2	0	2	2	4

DIVISION 2 (N)

	P	W	2	L	A	Bat	Bwl	Pts
Aston Manor	2	2	0	0	0	0	40
Cannock	2	2	0	0	0	0	40
Milford Hall	2	2	0	0	0	0	40
Penkridge	2	2	0	0	0	0	40
Penn	2	2	0	0	0	0	40
Streetly	2	1	1	0	2	4	26
Stourbridge	2	1	1	0	2	3	25
Oswestry	2	0	2	0	5	5	10
Whitchurch	2	0	2	0	4	4	8
Brewood	2	0	2	0	1	5	6
Fordhouses	2	0	2	0	2	3	5
Quatt	2	0	2	0	2	3	5

SPORT

Griffiths hat-trick is lifeline for Morda

A SECOND half hat-trick from Marc Griffiths enabled Morda United to keep their slim title hopes alive in the Mercian Regional League premier division with a hard-fought 3-2 win over Dawley Town.

Playing their first home league match since November, 17, the Weston Road men were favourites to overcome lowly Dawley, but the well-organised visitors provided a stern challenge.

It was the visitors who created the chances with United fortunate not to concede on at least three occasions. Morda's only first half effort of note came three minutes before the break when Mike Lloyd was unlucky to see his effort come back off the post after a Shin Miah corner.

Shortly after the interval good interplay between Dan Graham and Griffiths ended with Griffiths opening the scoring for the home side.

Hesitation in the home defence allowed Dawley back into the game when Ade Oliver chipped keeper Dan Wood. Dan Graham then hit the bar with a back header after more good work by Griffiths before Morda were back ahead on the hour when Griffiths finished neatly after a good cross from Gareth Lewis.

Lewis then had the ball in the net only to see his effort disallowed for offside as Morda maintained the upper hand, but were rocked when the experienced Danny Blocksidge equalised with 15 minutes remaining.

Marc Griffiths – his hat-trick has kept Morda's slim title hopes alive

United kept up the pressure and were eventually rewarded when Griffiths completed his hat-trick and secured victory with 12 minutes remaining.

With league leaders Church Stretton Town losing to FC Hodnet and title rivals AFC Ludlow having no game, Morda still have a mathematical chance of becoming the inaugural winners of the Mercian League premier division.

Morda's remain frustrated by the scheduling of their away fixtures and by the regulations which have prevented them from signing a keeper to replace the injured Sam Jones.

On Saturday, they entertain Telford Juniors (3pm) before their last game on Wednesday, 15, when title rivals AFC Ludlow are the visitors. If Morda win both of these games and Ludlow slip up, the title could still come to Weston Road.

MORDA RES, battling to get out of the bottom two in division one, hosted Hopesgate United last night (wed), before entertaining lowly Shawbury United reserves on Saturday (12noon). One time promotion chasers OSWESTRY LIONS saw their decline continue in division one with a 3-1 home loss to Rock Rovers.

Guilsfield's Challenge Cup dream ended by penalty shootout defeat

GUILSFIELD's hopes of lifting the Montgomeryshire Challenge Cup were ended by a penalty shootout as they crashed out of the semi-final at the hands of Llansantffraid Village.

There had been little between the sides, with Will Thomas netting a brace and Graeme McGill also on the mark for the Guils as the tie finished 3-3, with Wayne Austin, Iwan Matthews and Dale Lloyd keeping Llansantffraid on terms.

With extra time unable to separate the sides, the clash went down to penalties and it was Llansantffraid who held their nerve to progress 4-3.

Guilsfield still have one more chance of lifting some silverware when they take on Tywyn Bryncrug in the final of the Central Wales Cup on May 15.

Meanwhile, high-flying LLANDRINIO stayed on course for more silverware when they kept their flag flying in the Mid Wales Trophies Consolation Cup with a 3-2 win over Carno reserves in the second round.

Hammered

Luke Weaver scored twice, Neil Bebb getting the other, as Llandrinio look to add to their Montgomeryshire League division two title.

BERRIEW RES earned their place in the final of the same competition after Jackson Hassanyeh's goal was enough to see off LLANRHAEADR RES 1-0 in the last four.

LLANFAIR RES went out of the Robins (Newtown FC) League Cup 1-0 at Caersws reserves whose Gareth Jones settled the third round tie.

In the only game in the Honda division one, LLANGEDWYN ended their season with a 1-0 win over BETTWS, while the goals flowed as FOUR CROSSES RES hammered Kerry reserves 10-3.

Dan Jay led the way with a hat-trick, Josh Thomas scored twice while Alex Gunn (2), Gareth Jones, Matthew Jones and Jack Harris also found the net.

Llanrhaeadr face relegation wait

LLANRHAEADR played out a goalless draw at home to Rhayader Town in their last outing of the season in the Cymru Alliance to at least ensure they will finish off the bottom of the table.

The point, however, was not enough to take them out of the basement places and they must now wait to see how many teams are relegated.

Short supply

The villagers can take some heart from the fact they have become hard to beat with three draws in their last four league outings, but their resilience could be in vain as the drop back to the Spar Mid Wales League looms.

"It was a typical end of season game," said Rhayader boss Dylan McPhee who was forced to play in goal due to a shortage of keepers. McPhee made one save but for most part chances were in short supply at both ends.

Rhyn suffer bad defeat by rivals in bottom two

WESTON RHYN remain entrenched in the bottom two of the Mercian Regional League premier division after losing 2-1 at basement rivals Whitchurch Alport.

It means that Rhyn now have two games remaining, both away from home, if they are to get out of danger, although there may not be any relegation this season.

They could take heart from an excellent first half display against Alport, full of invention and flair, and they took a deserved interval lead when Sam Lichfield netted with a deflected free kick.

Encounter

They had chances to have been further ahead but Alport regrouped for the second half and hit back with two strikes to ease their own basement concerns.

Rhyn were looking for their first away win of the season last night when they headed to Telford Juniors in their penultimate league encounter. They then visit Oakengates on Saturday.

OSWESTRY BOYS CLUB, who won 3-2 at Hopesgate in division one earlier in the week, made it back-to-back wins with a 4-2 verdict at Clee Hill.

They are home to Wroxeter Rovers this Saturday.

Monty aim to keep up title dream alive in showdown

MONTGOMERY will be aiming to keep their title dream alive when they host high flying Llanidloes Town in Saturday's top-of-the table showdown in the Spar Mid Wales League division one.

A remarkable 17-match winning run has seen Monty keep the pressure on Llani but, even if they were to win this weekend's crunch clash, league leaders Llani can still lift the crown should they defeat struggling Dolgellau in their last game of the campaign.

Clive McNamee's Montgomery side, however, can take a lot of heart from their recent surge, even if they were to ultimately fall just short.

Three more wins maintained their momentum, first staying in touching distance of the leaders by winning 4-0 at Llansantffraid Village, the game 1-0 until the last 15 minutes before the visitors sealed victory with three more goals.

Rhydian Morris scored twice, while Tom Evans and Barry Bellis were also on the mark.

And last Saturday, they swamped struggling Newbridge 17-0 to give their goal difference a real shot in the arm with Rhydian Morris leading the charge with a six-goal blast in a one sided affair.

Barry Bellis, Neil Pryce and Elliot Jones all scored twice, while Mark Probert, Josh Evans, Jamie Bocking, Nick Rawlings and even keeper Steve Goodwin joined in the rout. That was followed by a 4-0 home victory over Aberystwyth University on Bank Holiday Monday to trim Llanidloes' lead at the top to seven points, while second placed Monty also have a game in hand.

Leaders Llanidloes, however, are showing no signs of slipping up as they marched on at the top by recording two wins themselves during the week.

FOOTBALL
by John Bridgwater

First, the Daffs won 2-1 at Aberystwyth University, overturning a one goal deficit through two goals in as many minutes from Jamie Breese and Karl Seliearts.

And two days later, they moved a step closer to the crown, and with it possible promotion to the Cymru Alliance, when defeating local rivals Carno 2-0 at Victoria Avenue.

After a slow start, they took charge to dominate the game, Gareth Mansell volleying the first before half time from the edge of the box.

In the second period, an own goal from former Llani man Andrew Thomas settled the issue, the defender only able to divert an excellent Mansell through ball past his keeper and into his own net.

At the other end of the table, DYFFRYN BANW climbed out of the relegation zone with a priceless 2-1 home success over fellow strugglers Dolgellau.

Realistic

Guy Wolverson and Tom Foulkes gave them a two-goal lead, with David Edwards pulling one back from the penalty spot.

Rob Jones' strike proved enough as WATERLOO ROVERS maintained their push for a top five finish with a hard-fought 1-0 win at Aberaeron.

However, FOUR CROSSES crumbled 7-1 at Tywyn Bryncrug as their recent woes continued.

It was a blow as they had been realistic title chasers at one stage.

However, they bounced back with a 14-0 drubbing of whipping boys Newbridge on May Day Monday to boost their spirits, and goal difference.

It has been a good finish for Tywyn by contrast as a few days earlier they notched a 2-0 win over BERRIEW, who, currently lying in fifth spot, ended their campaign on a losing note.

Llanyfllin grab a good point in a thrilling battle

LLANYFLLIN enjoyed a thrilling tussle as they fought out a 4-4 draw with promoted Llandrindod Wells in the Spar Mid Wales League division two.

A fluctuating encounter saw the lead change hands on a number of occasions before Glenn Evans earned parity for Llanfyllin from the penalty spot late on.

Earlier Bryn Thomas fired a hat-trick for the home side who are now ninth in the table after flirting with basement danger earlier in the season.

A few days before, champions LLANFAIR UNITED were made to battle all the way before winning 1-0 at local rivals Llanfyllin, with Matt Spencer getting the only goal of the game.

With the games coming thick and fast, Llanfyllin also lost 3-1 at Machynlleth on Monday.

Abermule, who went down 1-0 to Kerry earlier in the week, suffered a 3-2 loss at Presteigne who took the spoils through Sam Maygothling, Brian Dyer and Max Powell.

Kerry ended their season with a 4-3 home win against Machynlleth, while Hay St Mary's were 4-1 winners against Bont.

League tables

Spar Mid Wales League

Division one: Bow Street 2, Aberystwyth Uni 3; Dyffryn Banw 2, Dolgellau 1; Llanidloes 2, Carno 0; Newbridge-on-Wye 0, Montgomery 17; Tywyn Bryncrug 7, Four Crosses 1.

Division two: Hay St Mary's 3, Bont 1; Kerry 4, Machynlleth 3; Presteigne 3, Abermule 2; Rhosgoch 4, Knighton 2.

DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Llanidloes	28	24	2	2	120	28	74
Montgomery	27	21	4	2	111	21	67
Builth Wells	28	16	6	6	71	47	54
Four Crosses	27	16	3	8	65	54	51
Berriew	30	14	7	9	64	41	49
Tywyn/Bryncrug	27	15	2	10	78	49	47
Waterloo	27	14	4	9	74	55	46
Aberaeron	27	13	3	11	51	40	42
Aber Uni	28	11	4	13	57	55	37
Bow Street	28	9	8	11	72	69	35
Llansantffraid	29	10	5	14	65	69	35
Carno	27	10	2	15	43	50	32
Welshpool	30	9	2	19	51	79	29
Newbridge	27	6	3	18	39	123	21
Dyffryn Banw	29	7	0	22	32	98	21
Dolgellau	29	1	1	27	20	125	4

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Llanfair Utd	23	20	2	1	89	19	62
Llandrindod Wells	23	16	1	6	66	27	49
Rhosgoch	24	13	6	5	68	37	45
Kerry	24	14	1	9	43	43	43
Presteigne	23	11	5	7	66	59	38
Knighton	23	11	4	8	54	42	37
Machynlleth	23	10	4	9	63	59	34
Hay St Marys	24	9	6	9	66	64	33
Llanfyllin	20	6	4	10	40	53	22
Talgarth	23	5	5	13	35	59	20
Abermule	24	6	2	16	38	71	20
Bont	24	4	2	18	34	78	14
Aberdyfi	24	4	2	18	44	95	14

Reunion day for Penylan Lane FC

Back together - the successful Penylan Lane team of the 60s.

IT was a special reunion for Penylan Lane FC, a successful boys team in the 1960s, who got back together for the first time in 50 years.

The players got in touch, and came face to face at a recent TNS game at Park Hall to reminisce about old times.

Barry Woodward, who organised the reunion, said: "The match was preceded by us getting together in town for a lunch and a couple of drinks.

"We had a mooch around our old haunts followed by a lovely Italian meal. We then headed over to the ground where TNS entertained us just fabulously and the visit rounded off a really great day for the old boys from Penylan Lane FC."

Malpas hit 16 goals in easy victory

MALPAS celebrated runners-up spot in the Roche North Shropshire Sunday League with a 16-0 goal spree against 10-men Ironworks.

Tom Flaherty and Ollie Nevitt each netted four times, with Alex Hailes notching a hat trick, while Daz Parry bagged a brace.

There were also goals for Huw James, Andy Morris and James Hockenhull.

A few days before, Malpas sealed second spot in the table with a 2-1 win at The Oak Inn.

Andy Morris scored twice to give Malpas a 2-0 lead before Dave Hartshorn pulled one back from the penalty spot in the 85th minute.

Fixtures: Thursday, May 9 (6.30pm) League: Dudleston Heath v Oak Inn, Plough v Malpas (at The Venue)

Sunday, May 12, League Cup Final: Cross Foxes v Oak Inn (at Wem Town, kick off 6pm).

Rangers relegated after losing last home match

ELLESMERE Rangers said their farewell to the Midland Football Alliance when losing their relegation battle with a 2-1 defeat at home to a well organised Highgate United side.

The visitors opened the scoring on 28 minutes when Elroy Bennett headed home from close range, but five minutes later it was level pegging when Kevin Renshaw found the back of the net following some good work by Steve O' Reilly.

Following the substitution of Jake Brown for Matt Seeley on 37 minutes, the visitors restored their lead after a throw in deep in the Rangers half was flicked towards the near post and Dan Pitt supplied the simple tap in. Both Tom Kelly and Connor Courtney went close for the hosts before the break with Kelly witnessing his close range effect deflected over the bar.

Rangers supplied the pressure in the opening quarter of the second half with Kelly again firing over the bar, but on the hour mark went close when a curling Jamie Haynes corner ball was cleared off the line by Highgate skipper Dan Dineen.

Highgate came back into the game in the final quarter, but James O'Reilly came to Rangers rescue on 74 minutes when he promptly closed down Elroy Bennett and deflected away his header.

Rangers celebrated what they thought was their second goal on 85 minutes when Kelly headed the high ball past keeper Shaun Edwards who flew across the box for Marco Adaggio to head home from close range but it was quickly cancelled out for off side.

As the full time whistle blew, the crowd of 102 quickly dispersed knowing that Ellesmere will be playing West Midlands Regional League Premier division football next season.

TNS youngsters on march

TAYLOR James scored four times as The New Saints swamped Bala Town 10-0 in the Welsh Premier under-19 Academy.

Ryan Kershaw and Naim Arsan also scoring twice along with subs Liam Walker and Sam Prince.

Meanwhile, James was again on the mark with a brace as TNS progressed to the final of the Central Wales Youth Cup with a 4-2 victory over Aberystwyth Town. Ollie Beaman and Kershaw also on the mark.

TNS ladies lifted the Shropshire Womens Cup after seeing off Allscott Ladies 5-1 in the final at Shrewsbury Town's Greenhous Meadow. Chloe Mapp led the way with a hat-trick, while Jade Hill and Laura Morris also found the net.

Under-13s end season with victory

OSWESTRY Boys Club under-13s ended their Shropshire Junior League season in style by beating previously undefeated Sporting Colts 1-0 and putting themselves three points clear in the Shropshire Junior A league.

Oswestry's defence was immense and the work rate of the midfield and forwards sensational, and it was no surprise that Brandon Rogers scored the decisive goal when heading in a Curtis Weetman corner to finish a fine season on 35 goals.

Oswestry, whose players can be very proud of an exceptional season, now look for some cup success when they take on Shrewsbury Junior Colts at SCAT in Shrewsbury in the league cup final.

SPORT

Cricket
Record stand as Frankton win
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Cycling
Max off to flyer in time trial
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OSWESTRY Sports Desk 01952 241473 www.oswestrychronicle.com

Rovers in final after penalties marathon

HOLDERS Waterloo Rovers survived a penalty marathon to book their place in the final of the Spar Mid Wales League Cup with a dramatic win over Rhosgoch at Llanidloes' Victoria Avenue.

The sides were locked on 1-1 after extra time, before the semi-final was resolved on penalties.

There was also nothing to chose between the teams in the spot kick decider, with plenty of drama before Rovers prevailed 12-11 in the sudden death shootout.

Rhosgoch had a couple of chances to win Monday's game, but Rovers held firm and battled through for a place in the final for the second season running.

Steven Hole got their goal in normal time while keeper Gareth Ashley pulled off three penalty saves and also scored one himself.

Showdown

Rovers will either meet high fliers Llanfair United or Llanidloes Town, who were meeting in their semi-final last night. MONTGOMERY kept their title hopes alive in the Spar Mid Wales League division one with a 4-0 home win over Aberystwyth University on Monday – and they now face a top-of-the-table showdown at home to high flying Llanidloes Town on Saturday.

Rhydian Morris scored a hat-trick – to add to the six he bagged in the 17-0 hammering of Newbridge two days before – while Nick Rawlings also found the net.

Two early goals put paid to LLANSANTFFRAID VILLAGE who went down 2-1 at home to Tywyn Bryncrug on Tuesday night, Wayne Austin pulling one back late on.

Cup clash date

TNS youngsters will meet Llanidloes Town in the Central Wales Youth Cup at Newtown's Latham Park on Sunday, May 19 (2.30pm).

New boys aiming to end run of defeats

NEW boys Oswestry will be keen to show they can rise to the challenge in their first season in the Birmingham Cricket League division two despite suffering two early defeats.

The Morda Road men make the long journey to Stratford-upon-Avon on Saturday chasing their first win of the campaign after a batting collapse proved costly in last week's four wicket reverse at Harborne.

They now face a tricky assignment at Stratford who themselves gained their first win against Stourbridge last week, but skipper Mark Robinson insists there is no reason to panic despite the early setbacks.

He is confident the team can still fare well in the higher division following last season's promotion from division three, stressing there had been plenty of encouraging signs in the opening two games.

However, a middle-order batting collapse last Saturday, which saw Oswestry lose six wickets for just six runs, undermined the visitors who were bowled out for 130. Had they scored another 30 or so runs, the outcome could have been different.

As it was, the bowlers made Harborne work hard to reach the modest score in reply, before the Birmingham side got over the line with six wickets down and three overs to spare, Warrick Fynn taking 2-14 off his 10 overs and Jonathan Miles 2-31.

"The wicket wasn't great, but we're not blaming the wicket for the batting collapse which cost us the game and it's something we need to make sure doesn't happen again," said Robinson.

"Had we scored 160, then I'm confident we would have gone on to win the game. We're not too concerned at the moment as we bowled and fielded well last week and, apart from a 10 over spell, we were in control of the game.

"Going to Stratford is an early start for us, but we'll be fully prepared and looking to learn from that 10 over spell last week."

Sixteeen-year-old Scott Hale is set to make his first team debut after after cracking a fine 107 (15 fours and a six) for Oswestry II in last week's 38-run loss to Penkridge at Morda Road.

Charlie Morris also comes in as he is free from school commitments, while Pete Holloway and second team captain Scott Johnson step down.

● A fine half-century by Warrick Fynn and a disciplined team bowling display saw Oswestry through to a comfortable 31-run win against Shifnal in the first round of the ECB National Club T20.

Fynn hit 52, sharing an opening stand of 63 with Alex Huxley (23), and Jonathan Miles added 25no as Oswestry reached 128-5 in their 20 overs.

Shifnal were restricted to 97-7 in reply, skipper Mark Robinson taking 2-10 off his four overs, Paul Robinson 2-14, Sam Huxley 1-10 and Warrick Fynn 2-21.

Oswestry will now face Shrewsbury in the second round at their Morda Road ground in the morning of Sunday, June 9, while Penkridge will take on Milford Hall later in the day.

The two winners will then meet in an area final.

TNS KEEPER HUNT AS RAMSAY GOES

PROMISING young goalkeeper Alex Ramsay has left recently crowned Welsh Premier champions TNS as he looks for first team football next season.

Ramsay was on loan at Cymru Alliance high fliers Rhyl last term, having been No2 at Park Hall to first team captain Paul Harrison after coming through the TNS scholarship scheme.

Having previously had a loan spell with Caersws, 19-year-old Ramsay has decided to move to pastures new – possibly a permanent move to Rhyl – leaving the Oswestry club needing a second choice keeper ahead of this summer's Champions League.

by John Bridgwater

"We're disappointed to be losing Alex who is an excellent keeper who would do well in the Welsh Premier," said head coach Carl Darlington. "But we couldn't agree on what we wanted, and what he wanted."

Winger Chris Jones has also turned down a contract as he looks to break into the Football League, Tom Allen has been released while experienced defender Steve Evans is still in contract negotiations.

"We're happy with the squad we've got which we believe can deliver more trophies, but we need to fill two positions this summer - a goalkeeper and a wide player," added Darlington.

Young midfielder Sam Finley, who joined in February 2012, is the latest player to put pen to paper with a new contract.

The former Southport midfielder was a key component of the side which he helped win the Welsh Premier by a record 22-point margin last season.The 20-year-old had previously had a spell at the Everton academy and joined from Warrington.

TNS director of football Craig Harrison, who has guided the club to two titles in his 18 month tenure, was delighted that Finley has extended his stay.

"I am really pleased that Sam has extended his contract with the club," he said. "He and brings tenacity and energy to the team and has learnt a lot in his full season with us."

Finley's deal follows contracts for Matty Williams, along with defenders Kai Edwards and Connell Rawlinson. Williams missed the early part of the campaign following knee surgery, but HAScontributed greatly in helping TNS win their seventh Welsh Premier title.

Edwards, who only joined the club at the start of the campaign from Neath, was voted the young player of the season after an impressive first year at Park Hall.

Central defender Rawlinson joined in July 2010, but had few opportunities last season due to the form of Steve Evans, Phil Baker and Kai Edwards, and had a spell on loan with Welsh Premier rivals Newtown.

Atherton bike brothers are on fire

Oswestry-based Gee Atherton flies round the Bringewood Forest course at Ludlow on his way to winning the first round of the Pearce Cycles Downhill Mountain Bike series. Former World Champion Atherton was followed home by his GT Factory Racing teammate Marc Beaumont from Craven Arms. Meanwhile Gee's brother Dan turned on the style to ride his way to fourth spot in Riva del Garda in Italy. The BMX style track suiting the Oswestry ace down to the ground in a fun start to the European season. Atherton, also of the GT Factory Racing team, competed over six stages, the last of which saw him finish second as his fitness shone through to cap a fine weekend. Full story on Page 54.

Guils look for sixth spot finish

GUILSFIELD have a chance to seal a creditable sixth place finish in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance should they defeat visiting Flint Town United in their last league game of the season on Saturday.

Currently eighth in the table following their midweek 2-2 draw at relegation doomed Ruthin Town, the Guils can leapfrog both Holyhead and Flint if they can pick up the three points.

LLANRHAEADR played out a goalless draw at home to RHAYADER in their last outing of the season in the Cymru Alliance to at least ensure they will finish off the bottom of the table. The point, however, was not enough to take them out of the two basement places and they must now wait to see how many teams are relegated.

It is expected that two teams will make the drop, but that will only be confirmed when the feeder leagues finish.

Meanwhile, Guilsfield bowed out of the Montgomeryshire Cup on penalties against LLANSANTFFRAID after the sides had finished 3-3 after extra time in a thrilling semi-final. The winners will now meet either Caersws or Four Crosses in the final.

Llansanttfraid Village reserves missed out on the Village Cup when being downed 5-0 by Caersws reserves in the final at Treflan, with Gareth Jones scoring a hat-trick and Luke Williams a brace.

Confident Pool face toughest challenge

WELSHPOOL'S cricketers put their early season promise in the Shropshire League division one to the test when they host leaders Much Wenlock on Saturday.

After an opening day defeat, the Maesydre side have responded with back-to-back wins, including last week's 10-wicket hammering of Forton, to move up to fourth spot.

But they are certain to face a sterner challenge this weekend against a Wenlock side who have made a flying start with three straight wins to go top.

However, Pool will be confident of giving a good account of themselves having been buoyed by recent displays against two other sides lying just above them in the table.

Convincing

A terrific unbeaten opening stand of 159 sealed their second win of the season last weekend as they overcame Forton by 10 wickets.

Put in to bat, Forton were bowled out for 158, with Sam Birch leading the way with the ball, taking 4-36 from 15 overs, while Mat Mcwhinnie bagged 3-43 from 10 overs and Rob Birch 2-43 from 11.3.

Any doubts of a tricky run chase were soon dispelled as openers Joe Birch (85no) and Dave Jones (54no) set about the task with relish to seal a convincing 10 wicket win.

WELSHPOOL II's poor start to the reserve division one continued as they slumped to a 91-run loss to Ludlow II to leave them adrift at the foot of the table.

Whittington up to speed

WHITTINGTON A are now third in the Oswestry and District Bowling League division one with an 8-2 home success over Ceiriog Valley A.

It has been a good recovery from the villagers who have won three on the bounce after suffering back-to-back losses. "We had a bad start, but we are starting to play a bit better now," said captain Davies.

Full story – Page 53

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